



THE INDEPENDENT

2.980



The way to better health

The first of a three-part series

Fashion labels for women who work

Two new names for summer

The novel world of Hugh Laurie

Swelling the ranks of the comedians who write



TUESDAY 7 MAY 1996 40p (1R 45p)

INSIDE SECTION TWO

Independent's revelation of Qana video tape provokes storm at UN over death of refugees

Israel disputes deliberate killing claim

DAVID USBORNE
New York and
ROBERT FISK
Qana

Israel yesterday mounted a high stakes campaign at the United Nations to deflect allegations that it intentionally targeted refugees in southern Lebanon last month, amidst indications that a controversial report on the subject is to be issued.

Over 100 refugees were killed when Israeli shells hit the Qana camp. A UN report says the attack was deliberate, and the UN officer commanding the Qana base yesterday echoed this in an exclusive interview with the Independent.

The military commander in charge of the Israeli offensive, General Dan Harel, presented senior UN officials with military information, including aerial photographs and detailed maps, to offer contrary evidence to a secret UN report that alleges the shelling of the camp on 18 April was precisely calculated.

Denying that the shelling of the camp was deliberate, Gen Harel insisted: "That thing cannot happen in a democratic country like Israel."

The Israeli general was questioned about the presence in the area of an Israeli pilotless reconnaissance plane, which UN officials say indicates conclusively that the Israeli forces



In mourning: A woman weeps for loved ones killed at Qana

knew where their shells were falling. Gen Harel said that it had only been dispatched there "just after we heard from the

UN" that the base had been hit. But a video tape, the existence of which was revealed by the Independent yesterday, showed the aircraft flying in the area before and during the shelling. Lebanon, it emerged, asked for permission several days ago to show the video to the UN General Assembly.

Arab states were preparing yesterday to demand fresh action from the UN Security Council on the shelling, and the Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, was expected to brief council members on the findings of the report.

"It is a very grave matter and I will certainly be speaking up on it," the Egyptian ambassador

to the UN, Nabil El-Arabi, said. "I think it is very important that the Council pronounces itself on this incident in a proper way."

There was intense speculation in New York as to what Mr Boutros-Ghali would seek to do with the report when he meets the Security Council. He is believed to have come under pressure from the United States to play down the report's findings and to avoid rekindling diplomatic controversy over the Qana incident.

"I do not think it is in the interests of anybody to have this brought into the light of day," a senior diplomat explained. There were signs that even the

Arab states were uncertain about the benefits of making an issue of the report. Like the US, Arab governments may be nervous about any new diplomatic fire that could destabilise the ceasefire that has been established in southern Lebanon.

The UN's own reputation also stands to be damaged by the report's contents, because of an indication that the UN peacekeepers were aware that Hizbollah guerrillas who had been firing rockets into northern Israel had been using the base itself as a place to hide.

Israeli claims of its soldiers having old maps and that the wrong co-ordinates were used in the shelling provoked wide-

spread disbelief at the UN yesterday. "It is hardly credible. The Qana camp has been there 18 years," one diplomat said.

While stopping short of an apology for the incident, Gen Harel told journalists yesterday: "Unfortunately, some of our shells went into the Qana headquarters. But it is clear that this was absolutely not deliberate."

This was sharply rebutted by the officer in charge of the UN camp at Qana yesterday. "The Israeli 'margin of error' was too big to say this was an error. There were two Israeli helicopters observing the shelling in this headquarters - they were observing as shells landed here," said Lieutenant Colonel

Wame Waqanivalagi, who is in charge of Fijian battalion headquarters at Qana.

"We know the Israelis are very good at artillery shooting. Much of the time when the Israelis have shot in this area we would find around in the camp. We knew how accurate their shooting was. That's why there was no air of expectancy in the camp before the attack."

The colonel was in his command centre when the first Israeli artillery round to hit the UN base - there were 12 in all - landed. "It was chaos. Everyone was crying... Who cannot see this and think of their children?" he said.

How we cried, page 8

Clwyd failed to spot 20 years of abuse

ROGER DOBSON

Britain's biggest child sex-abuse scandal involving children's homes developed unseen in a climate of mistakes, failings, and confusion, according to the secret report into the scandal, extracts of which are published exclusively today in the Independent.

The report's damning indictment is that all the clues that abuse was going on were there for 20 years, but no one spotted them. A number of agencies, including the Welsh Office, the



police, and professionals, all come in for criticism in the report, which has still not been published by Clwyd County Council.

As well as seeking a judicial inquiry, the report calls for a full and urgent inquiry into the police investigation of complaints of child physical and sexual abuse in Clwyd's residential homes, similar to that carried out by the Police Complaints Authority after the Frank Beck scandal in Leicestershire.

The report also criticises the Welsh Office over a number of issues, including the numbers of homes, inspected and for refusing the request of the director of social services for a review of one home where there had been abuse.

The criticism of the Welsh Office social services inspectorate makes it increasingly uncomfortable for William Hague, Secretary of State for Wales, who has to decide what action to take. The inquiry team is insisting on a full judicial inquiry which could go much further in its investigation of the scandal which has been linked to the later deaths of 12 young men, some through suicide.

The report also shows the huge scale of the police inquiry which began in 1991. A letter from the Chief Constable to the independent panel says: "At the time of writing the nominal index contained the details of 4,580 individuals referred to during the investigation. A total of 6,071 specific inquiries were undertaken, 3,755 separate witness statements, 4,611 documents files examined."

The report's authors also urge the setting up of a new national database to track the networking of child sex offenders so that once an arrest is made, all contacts can be traced and checked.

Plastic bullet silences squatter's protest in township



A policeman firing a plastic bullet at a squatter after clashes in Alexandra township near Johannesburg in South Africa. Police moved in after squatters refused to leave the site, which is earmarked for low-cost housing and development. Two people were injured. Photograph: AP/Nicky de Blos

Brown defiant over cutting child benefit

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

The battle over the future of the Welfare State under Labour was intensified last night as Gordon Brown hit back at his party critics with a warning that "the status quo is not an option" for the review of child benefit.

The Shadow Chancellor issued a clear message that "hard choices" over child benefit for children aged 16-18 would have to be taken, and he appeared to clash with Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, who insisted that its future was still under review.

At the heart of Mr Brown's remarks was an uncompromising message to the party that he and Tony Blair are sticking by the threat to take away child benefit from high earners in order to pay for a guarantee of income to persuade the children of low and middle earners to stay on at school or college.

Mr Brown, in an article in today's Independent, says: "Making sure every young person has a stake in education and employment demands a national crusade for change in which tough choices will have to be

made so that we use our resources efficiently and equitably."

Senior Labour sources made it clear that Mr Blair was backing his Shadow Chancellor, in spite of rumblings from colleagues who were dismayed at the threat to child benefit for those over 16.

The details of the review have yet to be agreed, but the leadership stamped on reports that the left had secured a victory over their demands for unemployment benefit to be restored from six months to 12 months' entitlement.

Chris Smith, the party's social security spokesman, will today confirm the direction being taken by Mr Brown. Mr Smith will say Labour must break down poverty and employment traps, in which people are better off on benefits than in work. "It means facing up to tough choices," Mr Smith's remarks will be seen as a signal that he is prepared to bow to the Shadow Chancellor's insistence that commitments have to be paid for. Mr Smith and David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, have privately made

it clear they have no disagreement with Mr Brown, but are seeking to make the plans work with their detailed review.

"This is not about the details of benefit changes but the underlying strategy of welfare reform in targeting resources where they are most needed," said a Labour source. Putting people into employment remained at the heart of Labour's welfare plans, rather than increasing benefits.

The Tories were preparing to exploit the issue, sending mail shots to parents of 16-year-olds to warn they could lose their £10 a week benefit under Labour. Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, said: "Reforming welfare was supposed to be Labour's big idea. It is shaping up to be a big disaster."

Robustly defending his plan in the John Smith memorial lecture, Mr Brown said on BBC radio: "Let's be clear about this - you don't set up a review unless you believe that something is wrong that needs to be sorted out. The status quo is not an option, when you look at the crisis that is facing young people." Skills shortage, page 4 Gordon Brown, page 13

Weather experts feel heat

LOUISE JURY

They predicted a miserable Bank Holiday, but the only clouds yesterday were hanging over the weather forecasters.

Resorts claimed the mainly dry and sunny weekend could have been even busier if predictions of a cold spell had not deterred visitors.

"It's so infuriating," said Margaret Horler, hotelier and president of the Hotels Association in Weston-super-Mare, Avon. "If television reports say it's going to be a bad weekend, it really does put people off. At the beginning of last week they were predicting all doom and gloom."

People did manage to take advantage of the unexpected sunshine and heavy traffic was reported around Brighton, Torquay, the Peak District and the East Anglian coast.

A spokesman at the London Weather Centre said: "It has perhaps been brighter than we expected. There's been less cloud and the wind hasn't picked up as much as we thought. We're not overly unhappy with what we predicted." Weather, Section Two, page 25

Russia catches British 'spy'

PHIL REEVES
Moscow
and COLIN BROWN

Relations between Britain and Russia were turned frosty yesterday after Moscow claimed to have caught a British agent red-handed, and announced it was to throw out some British diplomats.

According to the FSB - heir to the KGB - Russian intelligence agents arrested an agent for the British Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) after he was "caught red-handed" trying to communicate with his controller. The FSB said the agent was a Russian national, recruited in the mid-1990s, who worked in a department of the Russian federal government.

He had been handing over classified material of "political and defence-and-strategic importance to British intelligence" in return for payments. The Russian news agency Interfax said the alleged spy will be tried for high treason, which carries a possible death penalty. The Russians said they will



expel "a number" of British diplomats. Britain immediately threatened Russia with ill-fated expulsions. The Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, briefed John Major on events. The expulsions will alarm senior backbench MPs on the Commons select committee on security, who warned last night of the growing threat of Russian espionage in London.

IN BRIEF

Outcry over bugging

New legislation being drawn up by the Government to give police a legal right to plant bugging devices could infringe civil liberties, it was claimed yesterday. Page 3

Pledge on reading

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, promised tough new measures to improve reading in schools. Details of her plans, will be announced today to coincide with publication of a report highlighting reading problems in inner city schools. Page 5

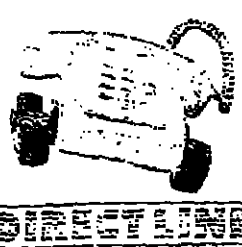
War crimes trial

Mladen Tadic tells his story well, his phrases polished in interview after interview, his sincerity total. He is a walking PR campaign for his brother Dusko, who goes on trial today at the Hague charged with crimes against humanity - specifically the torture and murder of Muslim men held at Omarska a prison camp set up by the Bosnian Serbs in the summer of 1992 to hold the victims of ethnic cleansing. Page 9



Contents insurance. Make sure you're not robbed.

You could be paying up to 30% more than necessary on home contents insurance. Why not come direct to us and cut out the middleman! We just cut the cost, not the cover. If you want to see how much you could save - reach for the phone. The red one on wheels.



LONDON	BIRMINGHAM
0161 628 3377	0121 223 9577
MANCHESTER	LEEDS
0161 229 3077	0113 245 5677
GLASGOW	BRISTOL
0141 228 3077	0117 445 8877

A member of the Association of British Insurers and of the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau. Not available in Northern Ireland. All products subject to our normal underwriting criteria.

section ONE NEWS 2-7 INTERNATIONAL 8-10 NEWS ANALYSIS 11 LETTERS 12 COMMENT 12,13 OBITUARIES 14 BUSINESS 15-17 SPORT 18-22

section TWO

HEALTH 2-7 PHIL HAMMOND 7 ARTS 10,11 ARCHITECTURE 12,13 FASHION 14,15 MEDIA 16-20 LISTINGS 24-25 PASTIMES, CROSSWORD 26 WEATHER 25 RADIO 27 TV 28

news

Treasury opposes business levy for London

DONALD MACINTYRE
Political Editor

The Treasury is resisting a far-reaching proposal for a business levy which could provide much needed investment for London Underground and other public transport projects.

The idea for a levy on all but the smallest businesses, were a majority of companies to vote in favour to pay for urban investment, is already spreading in the US after being successfully pioneered in Houston, Texas, and has some backing in Whitehall.

The levy proposal - which is backed by the City of London corporation and many of the capital's leading business figures - would allow big increases in transport investment without relying on central government grants or increases in council tax. Businesses throughout a given area, for example Greater London, would vote on a levy to be raised as a supplement to the national non-domestic rate. If a majority voted for the levy the minority would have to pay, but there would be an exemption for the smallest businesses, such as corner shops.

A mere 1p in the pound added to business rates in London would make up a £100m-a-year shortfall in London Underground's investment, according to two local government experts, Tony Travers and Stephen Glaister, of the London School of Economics.

Differences within Whitehall over the idea are reflected in a new Department of Transport document, *A Transport Strategy For London*. The document says: "The idea is an interesting one, which would have considerable attractions if it could be made to work on a genuinely voluntary basis. However... the current proposal is a tax and the expenditure which it supported would be public expenditure."

But that reasoning is challenged by supporters of the levy including London First, the private-public body for the capital.

The Treasury has so far taken the orthodox line that since such a levy would have to be paid by the minority of businesses who vote against it, it contains an element of compulsion and therefore constitutes a tax.

But that is dismissed by supporters of the levy who point out that housing associations and universities, for example, are allowed to borrow without affecting public spending totals and that the element of choice in the levy make it an essentially private sector project.



Centre of attention: Naomi Campbell at a press call to mark the official start of building work on the Fashion Cafe in Coventry Street, near Leicester Square, London. The restaurant, which will open in the summer, is part of a global chain being set up by Miss Campbell and a group of fellow 'supermodels' Photograph: Tony B. Kingham

Referendum threat by Euro-rebels

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Tory Euro-sceptic rebels yesterday threatened to force a Commons vote over a referendum on Britain's membership of the European Union, as ministers faced a backlash over the failure to lift the EU ban on British beef.

Eight former whipless Tory MPs will meet tonight to discuss plans for a backbench bill on a referendum to pull Britain out of the EU. They are prepared to ignore appeals for unity after the Tory local election losses and say the referendum on Britain's membership of the EU could prove decisive in the fight-back against Labour before the general election.

Some of its backers believe it could lead to a stampede by Tory backbenchers willing to sign up to the demands for a referendum on Britain's EU membership to stop the threat of a challenge to their seats by Sir James Goldsmith, the international financier and leader of the Referendum Party.

The proposed bill, to be tabled by Teresa Gorman, the Tory Euro-sceptic MP for Billericay, was given added impetus yesterday by fresh calls from Tory MPs for retaliation against the EU for its refusal to lift the ban on beef exports. Sir

Michael Spicer denounced the ban as a "straightforward protectionist attack" on Britain and called on John Major to boycott the EU summit in Florence if it was not lifted by the end of June. He also supported Britain withholding its contributions to the EU.

David Nicholson, secretary of the Conservative backbench agriculture committee, called for trade sanctions against Britain's EU partners and a ban on beef imports from the Continent. "People are pressing for us to get tough with Europe because Europe quite clearly isn't going to lift the ban," he said on BBC radio.

The Euro-sceptics believe a referendum vote in the Commons will give them a second chance to make a show of strength to the Prime Minister and the Tory leadership. A Tory backbench bill to reassess the authority of Parliament over the European Court of Justice won the support of 66 Tory MPs last

month, including former cabinet minister John Redwood, and Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor.

The referendum on Britain's EU membership would split the Euro-sceptics. Mr Redwood supports the Government commitment for a referendum on the European single currency, but has drawn the line at withdrawal from Europe. A similar line has been adopted by leading Euro-sceptics in the Cabinet, such as Michael

Howard and Michael Portillo. The demands for Britain to review its membership of the EU were led by Mr Lamont. Others believed to be sympathetic outside the "whippers" eight include Jonathan Aitken, the former Treasury minister. Mrs Gorman said that a third of the Cabinet would be sympathetic, as would a majority of the 92 Group of Thatcherite Tory MPs, chaired by John Townend.

Mrs Gorman said she would be seeking a deal with Sir James for his party not to field candidates against any Tory MPs who support her bill.

The pressure for a referendum on Britain's membership of the EU has intensified after the European ban on British beef exports. The rebels believe it represents the Tories' only chance of overthrowing Labour after the disastrous local election losses.

Mrs Gorman said: "We are in despair. The Government is not making any headway over beef. If you asked people why they stayed at home last Thursday, the reason they would give is that they have no respect for the Government any more... they see us being pushed around on beef, by the European Court."

But Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, accused the Euro-sceptics of misrepresenting the facts about the BSE crisis in order to reopen the question of Britain's EU membership. "The consequences could be that Britain's entire future in Europe could be threatened on the basis of a lie," he said on BBC radio.

"This has been brought about by catastrophically weak leadership at the top. The Government has totally mismanaged this whole BSE thing from start to finish."

EU set to stand firm on beef ban

SARAH HELM
Brussels

Britain's efforts to persuade its European partners to lift the beef ban look certain to be thwarted again today when veterinary experts meet in Brussels to review the crisis.

Douglas Hogg, the agriculture minister, suggested last week, after a meeting of European agriculture ministers in Luxembourg, that he had persuaded his partners to pave the way for an easing of the ban, knowing that none of the other member states would accept it at this stage.

Other European countries remain determined to keep the ban in force until they are totally satisfied that Britain has taken all the measures possible

to eradicate BSE. The British proposals so far are deemed insufficient to restore confidence in the European beef market.

While sales of British beef have begun to rise again in Britain, continental Europeans are still turning away from beef products, wherever they are produced. In Germany, for example, consumption of beef has fallen by about 70 per cent.

Mr Hogg has so far proposed the slaughter of all cattle over 30 months and the slaughter of a further 42,000 cattle believed to be most at risk. However, other Europeans remain concerned about whether the British control and monitoring systems are up to scratch.

EU officials say Britain has caused new worry by announcing that it is to accelerate research into the possibility that BSE can be inherited by calves.

"That, and the news that BSE has been found in animals that have been fed infected bone meal since it was banned, do not add up to a very positive picture," said an official. "If infected feed has been used because the ban was not effective then some countries will certainly take that very seriously."

It will be another two weeks before the ban can be discussed again, at an EU agriculture ministers meeting.

New digital Nokia. 100 hours of power!

NOKIA
NEW GSM MODEL 1610.

- ◆ Up to 100 hrs standby-time
- ◆ Up to 3.5 hrs talk-time
- ◆ 45 name/number memory stored on SIM
- ◆ Fast recharge-55 mins
- ◆ 5 selectable ring tones
- ◆ Weight 250g

FREE 50 MINUTES
CALLS PER MONTH
IN MAY, JUNE & JULY

- NEW GENERATION DIGITAL MONA - replaces the proven 2010 model
- ONE SECOND BILLING - you only pay for the airtime you use
- MORE POWER - up to 100 hours standby-time, up to 3.5 hours talk-time
- BEST COVERAGE - with digital call clarity and security
- FREE ACCESSORIES - in-car adaptor and leather case together worth over £55

LIMITED OFFER
£9.99
INC. VATGUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND
Your phone is covered by our 14 days no quibble money back promise.

Cellphones

ORDER NOW WITH YOUR CREDIT CARD DETAILS FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

FREephone 0800 000 888

CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 7PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 6PM

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT HANDY WHEN YOU CALL AND HAVE YOUR SIZE. (SIZES WE ARE ABLE TO ACCEPT: 36-40)

Other subject to status and a standard average contract for each phone with Cellphones Direct Ltd. 185 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond-upon-Thames TW9 4LN. Full terms and conditions of this offer are available on request. © Copyright. Registered No. 295522.

'God slot' drops fourth cleric

Another senior cleric has been dropped as a presenter of Radio 4's "Thought For The Day".

The Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Rev Richard Harries, is the fourth contributor to the *Today* programme slot in two weeks to be "rested" by the BBC.

The bishop, who joined the "Thought For The Day" team 24 years ago and is the programme's longest-serving presenter, said yesterday he was "puzzled" by the decision.

He gave his last broadcast in February and had been booked to take over the slot again in August and December.

"Yes, I too have received a 'Dear John' letter," he said. "The letter states that I am being rested, but for how long, or whether it is a permanent arrangement, I have yet to find out."

"What is clear is that it is clearly meant to make a break. I am, however, puzzled as to the reasons for it."

The bishop's departure follows those of Canon Philip Crowe, the former principal of Salisbury Theological College,



"Rested": Richard Harries

the Ven George Austin, the Archbishop of York and Dr Leslie Griffiths, the former president of the Methodist Conference.

All of them received a letter from David Coomes, the producer of the "Thought For The Day" slot, saying they were being "rested" in order to make way for new names.

Mr Coomes said in his letter: "I use the term 'rested' genuinely; all strands need refreshing from time to time, and there is no reason why old favourites cannot return as others in turn are rested."

£10,000 elderly care bonus

COLIN BROWN

The elderly could be offered a bonus of up to £10,000 under plans to be unveiled today by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, for persuading millions of people to provide for their own long-term care when they are elderly.

The aim of the White Paper is to defuse growing resentment among Tory supporters in "Middle England" - the battleground for the next election - over elderly people being forced to sell their houses to pay for long-term care.

Mr Dorrell is hoping to persuade more people to cover the cost of their long-term care through insurance, annuities or flexible pensions, which could be geared more towards paying the fees of homes for the elderly.

Labour will accuse the Government of "mugging the elderly" with the plans. Sources close to Tony Blair said last night the Labour leader strongly opposed the scheme and Harriet Harman, the party's health spokeswoman, is planning to attack it as "mugging Middle England".

"Far from protecting the assets of those in retirement, it is encouraging elderly people to hand over their nest egg to an insurance company because they need to go into a nursing home," said a Labour source.

The schemes will be voluntary, but legislation will be introduced in November to implement after the election.

Ministers are also worried about the spiralling cost of long-term care, and the increasing likelihood that more people will be requiring expensive long-term care into the next century. Officials have estimated that the numbers over 80 who own their own homes will rise rapidly from 50 per cent to 70 per cent of the population aged over 80 by the year 2013.

That will widen the crisis facing many middle-class families, when parents go into homes for the elderly. It will also seek to answer protests over the fact that people who have not saved, cannot be penalised, but those who have been thrifty are asked to contribute large sums.

Ministers are also worried about the spiralling cost of long-term care, and the increasing likelihood that more people will be requiring expensive long-term care into the next century. Officials have estimated that the numbers over 80 who own their own homes will rise rapidly from 50 per cent to 70 per cent of the population aged over 80 by the year 2013.

That will widen the crisis facing many middle-class families, when parents go into homes for the elderly. It will also seek to answer protests over the fact that people who have not saved, cannot be penalised, but those who have been thrifty are asked to contribute large sums.

Ministers are also worried about the spiralling cost of long-term care, and the increasing likelihood that more people will be requiring expensive long-term care into the next century. Officials have estimated that the numbers over 80 who own their own homes will rise rapidly from 50 per cent to 70 per cent of the population aged over 80 by the year 2013.

That will widen the crisis facing many middle-class families, when parents go into homes for the elderly. It will also seek to answer protests over the fact that people who have not saved, cannot be penalised, but those who have been thrifty are asked to contribute large sums.

Ministers are also worried about the spiralling cost of long-term care, and the increasing likelihood that more people will be requiring expensive long-term care into the next century. Officials have estimated that the numbers over 80 who own their own homes will rise rapidly from 50 per cent to 70 per cent of the population aged over 80 by the year 2013.

That will widen the crisis facing many middle-class families, when parents go into homes for the elderly. It will also seek to answer protests over the fact that people who have not saved, cannot be penalised, but those who have been thrifty are asked to contribute large sums.

Ministers are also worried about the spiralling cost of long-term care, and the increasing likelihood that more people will be requiring expensive long-term care into the next century. Officials have estimated that the numbers over 80 who own their own homes will rise rapidly from 50 per cent to 70 per cent of the population aged over 80 by the year 2013.

That will widen the crisis facing many middle-class families, when parents go into homes for the elderly. It will also seek to answer protests over the fact that people who have not saved, cannot be penalised, but those who have been thrifty are asked to contribute large sums.

Ministers are also worried about the spiralling cost of long-term care, and the increasing likelihood that more people will be requiring expensive long-term care into the next century. Officials have estimated that the numbers over 80 who own their own homes will rise rapidly from 50 per cent to 70 per cent of the population aged over 80 by the year 2013.

That will widen the crisis facing many middle-class families, when parents go into homes for the elderly. It will also seek to answer protests over the fact that people who have not saved, cannot be penalised, but those who have been thrifty are asked to contribute large sums.

IN BRIEF

New Muslim chief condemns Rushdie

The new leader of the Muslim Parliament of Great Britain renewed its support yesterday for the fatwa on author Salman Rushdie. Confirming the death sentence, Dr Muhammad Ghayyuddin said there would be "no joy" for Rushdie, whose book *The Satanic Verses* is considered blasphemous by Muslims.

Dr Ghayyuddin's stance echoes the hard line taken by his predecessor Dr Kalim Siddiqui. Two weeks before his death last month Dr Siddiqui, 65, insisted that the fatwa imposed by the Ayatollah Khomeini in 1989 should remain in force.

Dr Ghayyuddin, 57, said: "The entire Muslim Parliament is together on this matter. There will be no joy for him. As far as the honour of the prophet of Islam is concerned, this is fundamental to our belief in God."

The earth moves

An earthquake measuring 2.8 on the Richter scale shook thousands of homes at Burslem, north of Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent in the Potteries. It was also felt in parts of Crewe, Cheshire. The 4.50am tremor woke thousands of people and set off security alarms. A small tremor, measuring 1.6 and hardly enough to be noticed, was recorded in the area just after 10am on Sunday, and in February last year a tremor registering 2.5 hit Stoke.

Poison charge

A mother-of-two accused of injecting her diabetic landlord with an overdose of insulin was remanded in custody by Oxford magistrates. Susan Shickle, 35, is charged with administering a noxious substance to endanger the life of Norman Harvey in Banbury, Oxfordshire, last Thursday. Mr Harvey, 69, was found dead the next day. The results of a post mortem examination on the body have not yet been released.

Plea to runaways

Police appealed for two girls missing from a top boarding school to get in touch with their parents or relatives and let them know they are safe. Kirsty Ann Boyd and Aileen McGhie, both aged 15, sneaked out of their dormitory at the £5,000-a-year Lomond School in Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, after midnight last Tuesday. "Nothing indicates that they had any problems at home or at school," said Inspector Brian Lennax of Strathclyde Police.

Blaze mother dies

A mother who gave birth after being badly injured in a house blaze has died in hospital. Debbie Garbutt, 32, was eight months pregnant when she suffered 70% burns in the fire which killed her four-year-old daughter Jade last Monday. Doctors at Pinderfields Hospital, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, decided to deliver her child by Caesarian section last Thursday. The 3lb 3oz baby girl is stable in Leeds General Infirmary's neo-natal intensive care unit.

Falcon's wiped out

Pigeon fanciers have wiped out a city's population of peregrine falcons, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds believes. The last survivor was found dead in its nest at the top of a 160ft high BT office in Swansea. The RSPB suspect poisoning in revenge for racing pigeons eaten as prey. Four other pairs of peregrines nesting in Swansea have been killed.

Milk float tragedy

A five-year-old girl died in a freak accident when she was run over by a milk float while sitting next to one of its front wheels. Laura Hawkins had been playing outside her home in Hadston, Northumberland, when she sat on the ground beside the vehicle. Milkman Carl Bellish was serving customers at the back of the float and did not see her when he moved off. A Northumbria Police spokesman said: "It was a terrible tragedy."

Holy unexpected

Morning service at St Martin parish church in Birmingham was interrupted when an 8ft iron cross weighing 200lbs toppled from its mountings, bounce several times off the roof and plunged 200ft to the ground!

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Austria	£340	Norway	£6.0
Belgium	£380	Italy	£4.50
Denmark	£300	Malta	£2.50
France	£220	Netherlands	£4.00
Germany	£310	Norway	£6.0
Greece	£240	Portugal	£2.50
Ireland	£240	Spain	£3.50
Italy	£4.50	Sweden	£5.00
Japan	£340	Switzerland	£4.00
Latvia	£340	USA	£6.0

OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS

By mail: 13 weeks: Europe £110.75; Zone 1 (Africa, Asia, Australia, New Zealand) £134.00; Zone 2 (Far East and Australasia) £205.75. To order, please send cheque payable to Independent Newspapers Ltd to 43 Millbank, London SW6 5PP or telephone 0171-250 8200. Credit cards welcome.

BACK ISSUES

Back issues of the Independent are available from: Historic Newspapers, telephone 0980 402455.

Far right groups target the Internet

ANDREW BROWN

Increasingly sophisticated far right groups based in America are using the Internet to propagate their views, according to a study by the Institute of Jewish Policy Research.

"The far right of the 1990s is not a group in black shirts," said Michael Whine, of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. "Now it is a national anarchic move-

ment: a totally new concept which has as its aim the destruction of modern society by the destruction of its vulnerable parts."

The global and decentralised nature of the Internet makes it ideal for the cheap dissemination of unpopular opinions. Neo-nazis and holocaust revisionists have been active on the medium for almost as long as it has existed. What is new is the

use of the WorldWide Web, the most fun and fashionable part of the net, to link people into a white supremacist underground. The web allows moving pictures and sound tracks to be accessed by anyone with a modem. This means that it can be used to sell items such as books and records.

David Capitanchik, of Aberdeen University, who conducted the EPR study, said

these sites are merchandising racism. "My concern is not for consenting adults in private," he said. "I am concerned about what happens when the Internet goes into schools and other institutions. There is a moral and possibly a legal obligation that what schools allow into their libraries via the Internet should be judged by the same standards as what they buy to put into their libraries."

These sites are merchandising racism. "My concern is not for consenting adults in private," he said. "I am concerned about what happens when the Internet goes into schools and other institutions. There is a moral and possibly a legal obligation that what schools allow into their libraries via the Internet should be judged by the same standards as what they buy to put into their libraries."

Bugging law 'threat to civil rights'

ROS WYNNE-JONES

New legislation being drawn up by the Government to give police a legal right to plant bugging devices could infringe civil liberties, it was claimed yesterday. Liberty, the campaign group, warned that establishing the use of bugging in law could encourage the practice of covert surveillance. The concern comes as it emerged that the Government is preparing a Bill which will allow police to enter suspects' homes and plant surveillance devices.

Senior police officers stepped up demand for new legislation after the Security Services Bill, which becomes law later this year, was passed by Parliament. It will allow MI5, acting under the power of a warrant from the Home Secretary, to legally break into homes, search them, copy documents, plant listening devices and cameras and leave without the owners being aware they are under surveillance.

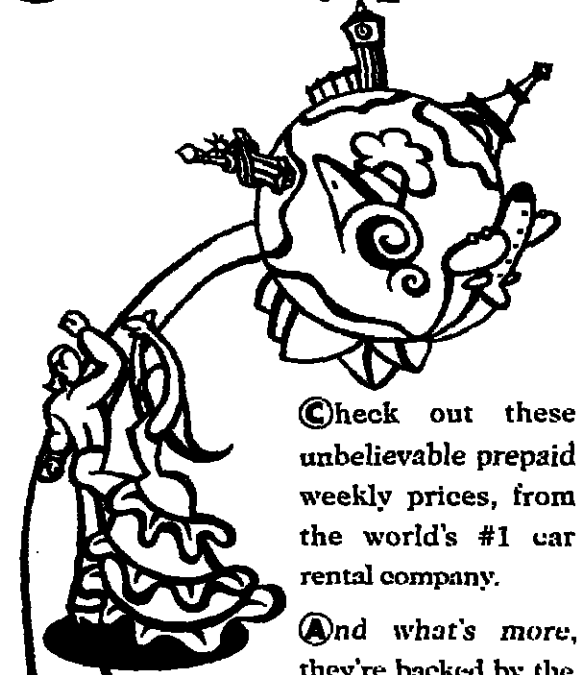
The Association of Chief Police Officers felt that the police required similar legislation to formalise their position on bugging and had asked the Home Office to look into the matter, a spokesman said last night. Yesterday it emerged that Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, plans to introduce a Bill in November which would give police similar surveillance rights to MI5.

John Wadham, director of Liberty, warned that legalising bugging could encourage police to resort to covert tactics more often. "We are concerned that it will be increased and there will be inadequate controls on the use of such bugs," he said yesterday. "We would want to see a system whereby the police had to get authority from a judge before they can plant such devices in the same way they have to apply for a search warrant to enter premises."

A spokesman for Acpo said it was criminals who infringed people's liberty not police. "Curtailling people's rights and freedoms is what criminals do," he said. "The legislation is not drafted yet, but when it is I think many people's fears will prove to be unfounded." The system would increase the accountability of the police and show they had nothing to hide.

Proposals being considered to safeguard civil liberties are believed to include the requirement for a warrant signed by the Home Secretary or for the approval of two judges. Under the 1985 Interception of Communications Act, authorisation is currently required from the Home Secretary in order to tap a telephone. Evidence gathered in this way is not, however, admissible as evidence in court. It remains unclear whether evidence gathered from covert surveillance under the provisions of the new Bill would be admissible or not.

Getaway from it all with our giveaway prices.



Check out these unbelievable prepaid weekly prices, from the world's #1 car rental company. And what's more, they're backed by the unbeatable Hertz Price Promise Guarantee! Whether you're heading for the sun and sea in Spain, or for cool cruising in California, all roads lead to Hertz.

Special Portugal offer \$99* up to June 15th

FLORIDA	\$79*
CALIFORNIA	\$99*
SPAIN (MALAGA)	\$100*
BOSTON	\$119*
MAJORCA & IBIZA	\$130*
FRANCE	\$199*
ITALY	\$214*

Plus special deals to Disneyland® Paris

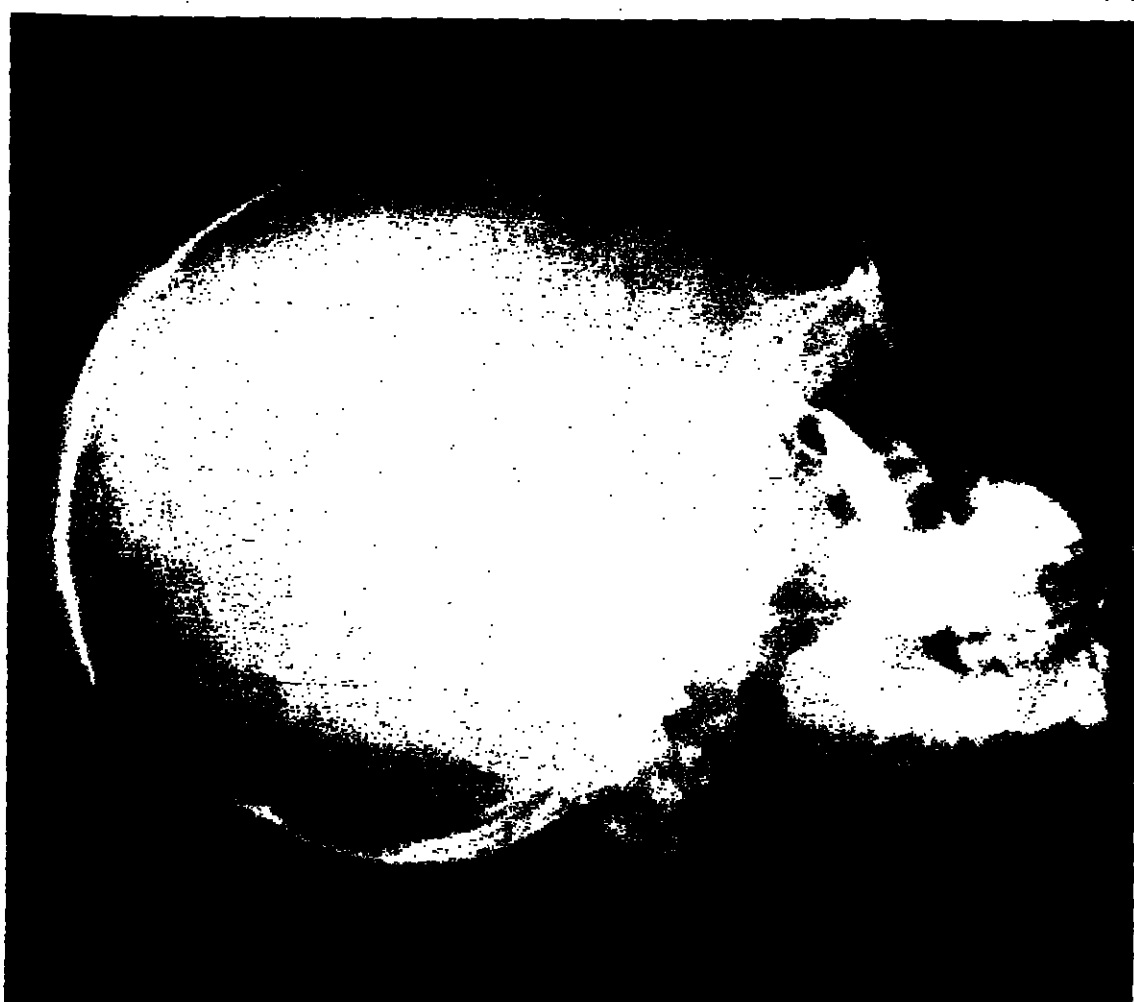
Girl, 5, with a bullet behind her eye

ROS WYNNE-JONES

A five-year-old West African girl who has had a bullet lodged in her skull for over a year is to fly to Britain this week for treatment. Teneh Cole was shot by rebels in her native Sierra Leone and the bullet has remained behind her right eye, causing a speech impediment, deafness and loss of vision. Teneh will be seen on Thursday by consultant surgeons at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. "We are treating this girl as a humanitarian gesture. The X-ray pictures showing the bullet in her head are absolutely startling. They clearly show what a very lucky escape she had," said Richard Drew, administration director of the local health care trust.

The campaign to get Teneh treated in this country was taken up by British charity workers after they heard her remarkable story.

She was found cowering in a derelict farmhouse last year after her parents died in Sierra Leone's civil war. Malomoh Cole and his pregnant wife, who were fleeing from a rebel attack on their home town of Marima, shared their food and gave Teneh her name - which



Victim: The remarkable X-ray showing the bullet behind Teneh's right eye, and the little girl pictured in Sierra Leone

means "God will provide".

Days later, the three were in the crossfire of another rebel attack. "I saw Teneh on the ground shouting, with blood oozing from her head," recalled Mr Cole. "She was unconscious for three hours." He surrendered to the rebels after Teneh's condition

worsened so that she could get treatment. But after being tortured, he fled again with her. The couple then carried Teneh 250 miles to Freetown, the capital, dodging rebel patrols and begging for food. It was there that Teneh finally received medical attention, X-rays showing that the bullet, be-

lieved to come from an AK47, was close to her brain. The hospital felt it had insufficient expertise to operate on the child. Luckily, Colonel Mark Cook and his wife Caroline, who are trying to establish an orphanage for Sierra Leone's young war victims, were made aware of Teneh's condition. Col. Cook

set up the international charity Hope and Homes for Children after serving in Bosnia. His wife said last night: "Teneh is a symbol of the suffering of so many children." Surgeons at the Norwich hospital volunteered to treat Teneh without charge and Sabena, the Belgian airline, will fly her

over with a male nurse. The hospital recently successfully treated two young casualties of the war in Bosnia. Geoffrey Cheney, a plastic surgeon, said: "We will do all we can. The injury she suffered is incompatible with life. If the bullet didn't kill her outright, you would have expected infection to have done so."

Ally Pally debt sends council into 'financial meltdown'

PAUL FIELD

Haringey council in north London may face a debt of nearly £50m from running and redeveloping Alexandra Palace, leaving it with the biggest deficit of any local authority in the country and facing "financial meltdown".

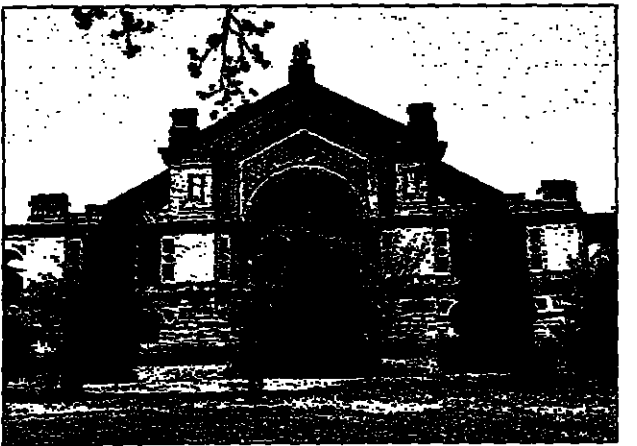
The council may have to make massive spending cuts to cope with the debt.

The problems began in 1980 when the council became trustee of the site and, through a charitable trust, took over the running of the palace and the 300-acre park from the Greater London Council. The palace - birthplace of BBC Television - was devastated by fire in the same year and the rebuilding and running costs paid by the council since have spiralled to £45m.

The Treasury Solicitor, responsible for apportioning the deficit, has told the council the only money that can be guaranteed to be recovered is £4.7m plus interest. Haringey can only recover more money from the trust if it proves it has managed its affairs prudently.

But in a critical eight-page letter to Haringey's chief executive, Gurbux Singh, the Treasury Solicitor accuses Haringey of:

- failing to provide evidence to prove expenditure was properly incurred;
- taking a risk by proceeding with the restoration of the palace after the 1980 fire;
- depriving the board, re-



Soaring costs: Birthplace of BBC TV costs Haringey dear

sponsible for the running of the palace, of its decision-making functions.

One councillor said last night: "This spells financial meltdown for the council. It has been going on for so long we should accept the debt in order to work out how best to deal with it."

Haringey was due to choose a developer for the 123-year-old "Ally Pally" next Friday, in an attempt to clear some of the debt and make the site at Muswell Hill commercially viable. The three shortlisted proposals include an underground shopping mall, a multiplex cinema and a "futuristic lake".

When the trust begins to make money Haringey would be entitled to reclaim some of its expenditure.

To add to the council's problem, any development needs parliamentary approval and Sir Nicholas Lyall, the Attorney General, has made it clear that the debt liability must be settled first.

Losses on the exhibition and banqueting business over the years have added to over-spending on the restoration following the 1980 fire. The trust has run massively over budget on council money.

Haringey has maintained that the revenue debt of about £24m from the running costs of the palace and park was the responsibility of the trust. However, the Treasury Solicitor says Haringey is entitled to an indemnity in respect of the revenue deficit only from 1991, amounting to £4.7m, although

the council will also be able to recover the borrowing costs of any expenditure properly incurred.

Haringey comes under heavy criticism on the capital debt from rebuilding the palace. In 1991, a report by Project Management International discovered that development costs exceeded the rebuilding budget approved by the council and accused Haringey of unauthorised expenditure on the refurbishment.

According to the letter, Haringey has suggested the trust should bear half of the capital deficit, which is dismissed by the Treasury Solicitor as "quite unacceptable".

The Treasury Solicitor's letter says the position of the Attorney General is that the "sheer size of the overspend, coupled with the criticisms in the PMI report, create a strong prima facie case that the expenditure was not reasonably and properly incurred. The council has so far done nothing to dispel that inference."

However, the letter does stress the importance of a new development at Ally Pally, emphasising the need for the charity to ensure that its running costs are fully and securely provided for. Without this the charity will not be in a position to reimburse the Council for any of the debt.

Both Mr Singh and Toby Harris, leader of the council, were unavailable for comment.

Home Office drops support for stalking Bill

The Government yesterday turned down a plea to help introduce new legislation which would make stalking a crime.

The Home Secretary, Michael Howard, was asked to ensure that a Private Member's Bill from the Labour MP Janet Anderson goes through unopposed when it comes up for a Second Reading on Friday.

The Labour Home affairs spokesman Jack Straw said: "There is a clear need to legislate on stalking."

"The Bill will provide an ideal vehicle to get provision on the Statute Book before the summer recess. Further delay will only mean further misery for thousands of people."

But the Home Office minister David MacLean said although the Government shared the concerns about stalkers, he had reservations about the Bill.

"I fully understand and sympathise with what Janet Anderson is trying to achieve," he said. "I am always prepared to consider any proposals to give further protection to innocent people whose lives are being made a misery by the evil actions of others."

"However, the Government has some concerns about the Bill. Its scope could be too wide. It could criminalise legitimate activities."

"For example, journalists door-stepping a politician in hot pursuit of tomorrow's front

page story could find themselves falling foul of the laws."

He said the Home Office was conducting a review to see what new measures might be introduced and that existing laws deal with the worst cases.

He added: "Legislation must be effective."

A Home Office spokeswoman said: "We have a number of reservations at this stage. We are looking at it but as we understand it, it is too wide."

Ms Anderson's Bill has been drafted following talks with the Lord Chancellor, senior Home Office officials - at the invitation of Mr MacLean - the Police Federation, the Suzy Lamplugh Trust and police officers.

A key factor is the proposal to introduce prohibition orders, which would allow magistrates to jail any stalkers breaching them.

A spokeswoman for the Suzy Lamplugh Trust said it was nonsense to make a comparison with journalists' activities.

"Stalking is something which goes on for months and months and is crystal clear," she said.

"The Government has given help in drafting the Bill through Home Office Civil servants. Why has it gone so horribly wrong?"

"These reservations could be an unnecessary delay to something which everyone accepts is needed."

Leeds steals 'capital of car crime' title

JAMES CUSICK

Leeds is the car crime capital of Britain. The unwelcome label for the Yorkshire city, where owners have a 5.5 per cent chance of finding an empty space where their car used to be, has been awarded in a survey by the insurance company, Eagle Star.

London, which was mentioned in any telephone insurance quotation still receives an almost instant "Oh, that will put

up your premium, sir", is apparently far from top of the theft league. Residents of Birmingham, Newcastle upon Tyne, Manchester and Glasgow all have a higher chance of having their car driven off without consent, than do the residents of the capital city.

According to the Eagle Star survey, the first to rank cities by theft and car crime, is based on claims from the company's 1.5 million motor policy holders. The survey puts the national

average at 3 per cent. Recent government figures state that a car crime is now recorded every 21 seconds.

However, in Leeds the national average would seem to be a dream figure for the one in 20 motorists who had their cars stolen or broken into last year.

In Birmingham it was 5.1 per cent and Newcastle was next riskiest at 5 per cent. The lowest English figure was Southampton with a 1.2 per cent level.

Motorists in Aberdeen might

be worried about ice or snow on the road, but they can worry far less about car theft. Fewer than one in a hundred Aberdonian motorists had their cars stolen in 1995. The Eagle Star figure for the granite city is 0.8 per cent.

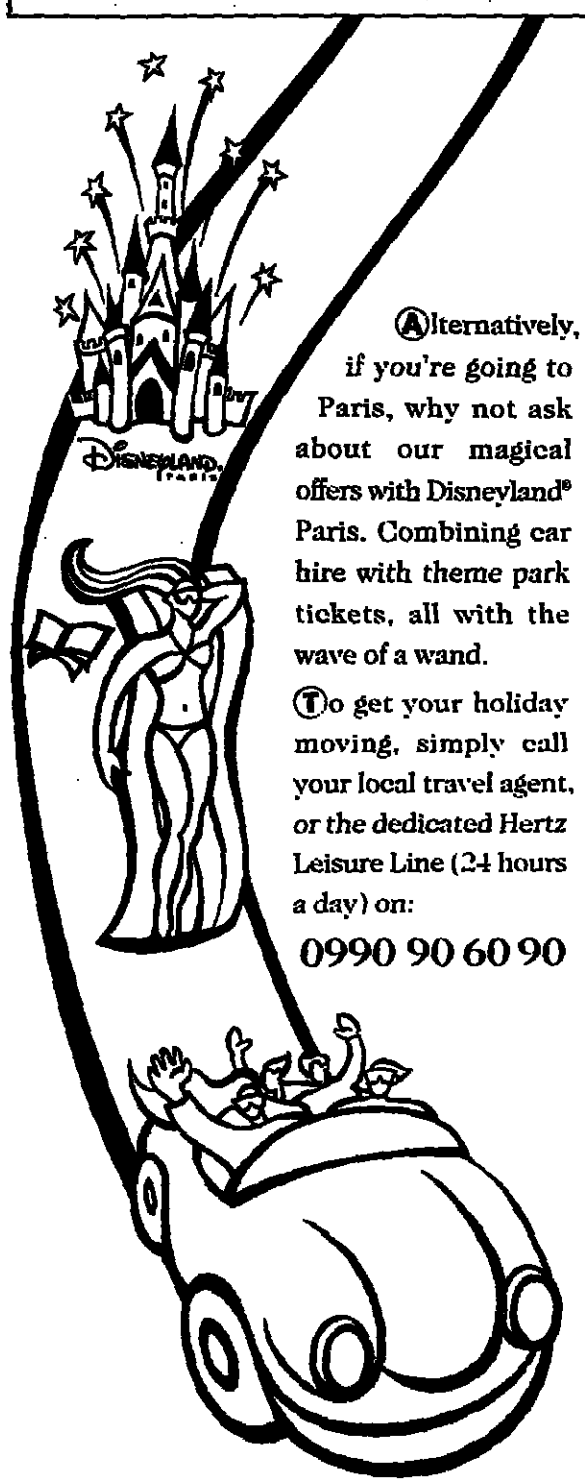
Ian Johnston, divisional director of Eagle Star said: "Social and economic differences between cities can account for some of the contrasts in crime rates. But efforts to crack down on thieves have also had vary-

ing success. We believe more must be done, especially in the worst affected cities, to curb the problem and we are right behind the Government's new campaign to improve crime prevention."

The Eagle Star survey comes as the Home Office attempt to improve car crime statistics by relaunching its Crack Car Crime campaign which although regarded as initially successful, is thought to have lost its impact.

How safe is your car?

City	Risk factor
Leeds	5.5%
Birmingham	5.1%
Newcastle	5.0%
Glasgow	4.7%
Manchester	4.7%
Nottingham	4.1%
Sheffield	4.0%
Bristol	3.9%
Liverpool	3.6%
Cardiff	3.6%
UK average	3.0%
Leicester	3.0%
Edinburgh	2.5%
London	2.4%
Wolverhampton	2.2%
Southampton	1.2%
Aberdeen	0.8%



Alternatively, if you're going to Paris, why not ask about our magical offers with Disneyland® Paris. Combining car hire with theme park tickets, all with the wave of a wand. To get your holiday moving, simply call your local travel agent, or the dedicated Hertz Leisure Line (24 hours a day) on: 0990 90 60 90

Hertz
Hire cars at lower prices.

4
news

Child benefit reform: Changing further education funding may help avert the risk of a lost generation without jobs or hope

Four ways to tackle the skills shortage

What do you do with teenagers who have no qualifications? Thirty-three per cent of teenagers drop out of full-time education at 16. By age 18, 60 per cent have gone. Yet those who leave without qualifications are far more likely to be unemployed and low paid later on. So what are the new options to encourage them to stay on? And where will the Government — this one, or a Labour one — find the money?

1) Carry on with the current system and hope numbers staying on continue to grow

The number of 16-year-olds staying on in education has risen substantially in the last decade. One option is to hope that the current trend carries on. The problem is that the pace of change is slow, and we risk creating a lost generation of unskilled — and unemployable — young people. Furthermore, the existing system may be neither the most efficient, nor the fairest use of the money.

The total cost of educating 16- to 18-year-olds at the moment is about £4bn including £2.5bn on education fees, £700m on child benefit, £700m on youth training and less than £100m on additional maintenance awards.

Teenagers have little short-term financial incentive to stay on. Their mothers continue to

Analysis

get £10.80 a week in child benefit if they stay in education, compared with around £30 if they join a Youth Training programme (the successor to the controversial YTS).

At the same time, the bulk of taxpayers' money is supporting those who will not only earn most later on in life, but whose families are earning most today. Fees for schools and colleges are £3,500 per child compared with only £1,700 on average for teenagers who engage in workplace training. Middle-class families absorb most of the subsidies. Three-quarters of the 17-year-old sons and daughters of professionals are in full-time education, compared with one in three children of unskilled manual workers.

2) Encourage more teenagers to stay on in education with financial incentives.

a) Universal Benefits: A hand-out for every 16- to 18-year-old who stays on in education or training, whether it be full-time or part-time. It would give teenagers a cash incentive, and would not stigmatise the poor.

Cost: Depends how high the figure is. Switching the benefit

from the mother to the child could be done at no extra cost.

Problems: Could be a massive waste of money. The taxpayer could be needlessly subsidising hundreds of thousands of children who would stay on anyway.

b) Means tested benefits: Instead of shelling out the cash for everyone, government could target the people for whom it really makes a difference, and give them a hefty sum rather than just £10 a week.

Cost: Depends how many people you intend to help. Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, has suggested using some of the £700m currently spent on 16- to 18-year-olds' child benefit for this purpose.

Problems: Means-tested grants can stigmatise. No one knows whether withdrawing that £10 a week from low- and middle-income families might put their children off staying in education, especially when the alternative means filling in complicated forms. This is why the Child Poverty Action Group is concerned about Mr Brown's proposals.

3) Give 16- to 18-year-olds more and better education options

a) Make some form of education and training compulsory. Touted by the LSE economist Richard Layard, and

the Social Justice Commission, employers would be obliged to make sure that any employee under 18 received a certain amount of recognised training towards national qualifications preferably on day-release to further education colleges.

Cost: Someone would have to pay for the day-release at college. Another use for Mr Brown's savings from child benefit? Alternatively cash could come from forcing students to pay towards the cost of their higher education.

b) Improve vocational training options. Part of the problem for teenagers who lack academic abilities is that there is little else worthwhile for them to do. Sir Ron Dearing and David Blunkett have both advocated making vocational education more attractive. But this too would cost money.

4) Persuade kids that school is OK

The reason many children drop out at sixteen is because they hate school. The damage has been done long before they reach 16. Targeting discouraged children much earlier could be a far more effective way to improve their qualifications and staying-on rate than any combination of cash and training schemes later on.

Yvette Cooper



Decision time: Debbie Brooks (left) and Shanel Lyons must decide between study or work Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

'The only jobs are Tesco's — not what people want'

Gordon Brown's plans to cut child benefit for 16- to 18-year-olds who stay on in education won't make any difference to Debbie Brooks. Taking their GCSEs this summer at Cranford Community School, a comprehensive in west London, Debbie and her friend Shanel Lyons are the kind of teenagers that the Labour Party wants to persuade to stay on in education and pick up new qualifications.

"Money's a big problem. Mum and dad are a bit strapped for cash," said Debbie. Her three elder sisters all left school at 16 to get jobs, two of them now work at nearby Heathrow airport. Debbie's parents think she should get a job too, and although she hasn't yet made up her mind, the chances are Debbie will stay in education: "I want to prove something to my mum and dad."

Debbie claims cash makes no difference to her plans to stay on. But it may stop her pursuit

of exactly the career she wants — as a veterinary nurse. A college in Berkshire which runs the pre-veterinary science course she wants to take is too far away, and her parents couldn't afford to keep her there. Either way that £10 a week in child benefit doesn't enter her plans.

Nor does it bother Shanel, to whom leaving school appeals: "Going back to school is a drag, sometimes you feel all you want to do is leave, go somewhere new and meet new people." But she is realistic about the job prospects if she has no qualifications at all. "The only jobs are working in Tesco's — not how most teenagers want to spend the rest of their lives."

Not all Debbie and Shanel's

friends will be staying on. Some have left already, and will not be going back to sit their exams. Shanel is convinced that money has made a difference to them: "Some people feel they can't go to college because it will be too expensive." Debbie thinks the £10 child benefit wouldn't affect their decision, but that £30 a week — the kind of cash you could earn on a Youth Training programme — could have an impact.

But they both agree that it would take a lot more than maintenance grants to change many teenagers' minds. Fed up with school, they are desperate to leave, and as Shanel said, "once they've made up their minds, nothing will persuade them to come back."

If Shanel was offered a job tomorrow paying £100 a week, she would snap it up. But £60 a week wouldn't lure her out of education "unless it was something I really wanted to do".

Detectives question man over fire deaths

Police were last night continuing to question a man in connection with a fire which killed four children. Officers have confirmed that the blaze had been started deliberately.

The bodies of six-year-old Patrick Good, his brother Terry, 12, and their sisters Alison, 10, and Nicola, eight, were found by firefighters in the back bedroom of their home at Sullivan Road, Sholing, Southampton, early on Sunday morning. Post-mortem examinations showed that all four died from inhaling fumes.

The children's parents, Beverly and Melvyn Good and their 14-year-old daughter, Kelly, managed to escape, but Kelly suffered serious burns. Mrs Good was yesterday said to be "devastated" by the tragedy and told relatives that she wished the whole family could have died together.

Meanwhile, police declined to give any details about the man they have been questioning since he was detained on Sunday. Forensic experts also continued to search the burnt-out building for clues yesterday. Detective Superintendent Peter Neyroud said: "The preliminary indications are that we are dealing with a fire that was caused deliberately."

Exactly how the fire was set and the arsonist's motive were still being examined, but police were investigating the possibility that someone might have had a grudge against the family.

Mr Neyroud said police were anxious to talk to anyone who was in the area of Sullivan Road between midnight and 2 am on Sunday and particularly wanted to hear from anyone who may have seen somebody riding or pushing a bike.

Cholesterol tests wasted on 'worried well'

GLENDA COOPER

Cholesterol testing is not being offered to those most at risk of developing heart disease, according to the British Cardiac Society.

Instead it is the "worried well" — the health conscious and educated — who are putting doctors under pressure to give them tests.

A survey carried out in Scotland as part of the Glasgow Monitoring Cardiac Disease Project (Monica) found that three-quarters of patients tested were those considered to be at lowest risk.

The study of 2,000 men and women between 25 and 74 assessed common risk factors such as smoking, high blood pressure, diabetes, and evidence of heart disease.

Coronary heart disease is the single most common cause of death in the UK and the industrialised world. A high level of cholesterol in the blood is a significant risk factor for coronary heart disease and people with a high level can be treated with dietary advice and if necessary cholesterol lowering drugs to help reduce their risk of developing CHD. In 1993, 70 per cent of UK adults had high cholesterol levels.

Last year a study by the West of Scotland Coronary Prevention Study Trial found that using a cholesterol lowering drug reduced heart attacks by nearly one-third and the risk of death by 22 per cent.

In the Monica study 20 per cent had been tested for cholesterol over the year. But only one in five of this 20 per cent had existing heart disease and

only one in 20 had factors placing them at high risk of developing CHD.

"It's the people at high risk we want to target," said Dr Caroline Morrison, consultant in public health medicine, who carried out the survey. "The survey clearly shows that many high risk people are not being offered cholesterol testing whereas many at comparatively low risk are being tested unnecessarily."

At their annual meeting in Glasgow this week the British Cardiac Society is also calling for GPs to play a more important role in administering "cholesterol" drugs to heart attack patients.

Trials of drugs such as streptokinase have shown that they can reduce the likelihood of death from a heart attack by 25 to 50 per cent. The earlier a treatment is started the greater a patient's chances of survival. The British Heart Foundation has recommended that heart attack patients should receive thrombolysis (treatment with clot dissolving drugs) within 90 minutes of seeking medical help — the "call-to-needle" time.

A survey of 326 patients carried out by Dr John Rawles at the Medicine Assessment Research Unit at the University of Aberdeen found that those treated with the drugs by their GPs were more likely to receive the treatment within 90 minutes than those who received it after being admitted to hospital.

Dr Rawles said: "In most cases general practitioners attending patients suffering a heart attack are in a position to give potentially life-saving treatment within the target time [90 minutes]."

FIRST TIME BUYERS. YOU'VE GOT A CHOICE.

Abbey National are offering a comprehensive range of mortgage packages for First Time Buyers to help you take that first step onto the housing ladder. With a 5% deposit you could choose from:

- A Variable Rate mortgage with a discount of 2% until 31st May 1997 plus a 3% Cashback of up to £4,000.
- A Fixed Rate of 5.79% 6.1% APR until 31st May 1998 plus a 2% Cashback of up to £4,000.
- A 5% Cashback of up to £6,000 on our Standard Variable Rate mortgage.

Our experienced mortgage advisors will not only help you choose the right mortgage, but will also guide you through the whole process of buying your first home. So, to find out more just call into your nearest branch, or call us free on 0800 100 800, Monday to Friday 8.00am to 9.00pm or Saturday 8.00am to 4.00pm, quoting reference A383G.



The habit of a lifetime



MORTGAGES

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

For your security and to assist us in improving our service to you we may record or monitor all calls to Abbey National Direct. Other packages available depend on customer status, size of deposit and terms over which the special offer relates. See in branch for details. For the above Fixed Rate there is a £200 one-off refundable booking fee and completion must take place by 31.7.96. As a condition of this Fixed Rate, the mortgage must remain at the Standard Variable Rate for the period 1.8.96 to 31.5.2001. If you switch from the Fixed Rate before the end of the Fixed period or from the Standard Variable Rate that will apply after the Fixed period, or make capital repayments (except normal monthly payments on a repayment mortgage) before 31.5.2001, a charge of 180 days gross interest at the Fixed Rate on the amount repaid or transferred will be payable. Completion for the above Discounted Variable Rate packages and the 5% Cashback must take place by 31.5.2001. All offers are subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time. Typical example for a First Time Buyer discount of 2% combined with a 3% Cashback on our Standard Variable Rate of 7.79% 8.22% APR until 31.5.97 including Valuation Bonus: a couple (male and female), aged 29, applying for an endowment mortgage of £40,000 on a purchase price of £42,105 secured over 25 years. 300 monthly interest payments of £139.37 net of tax relief, plus the final repayment of £40,652.65 capital (includes High Loan to Value fee of £652.65 added to the advance). 300 monthly endowment premiums of £58.22. Total amount payable £94,751.14 includes £130 inspection fee, £50 deeds handling fee charged on redemption, £117.50 legal fees and accrued interest of £27.99 assuming completion on 27.9.96. Example calculated at 5.79% for the full mortgage term £42,105. No account made if the mortgage is redeemed, converted from variable rate terms or a capital repayment (except normal monthly payments on a repayment mortgage) made before 31.5.2001. In addition to the charge applying to the Discount or Fixed Rate package a charge equivalent to the Cashback received will be made if you repay the mortgage in part or in full before 31.5.2001. The Cashback may affect personal liability to Capital Gains Tax. All APFs are typical and variable. Secured loans and mortgages require a charge on your property and in the case of an endowment mortgage an endowment life policy for the amount of the advance and a charge over the policy. All loans subject to status and valuation and not available to persons under 18 years of age. A High Loan to Value Fee is required if the loan exceeds 75% of the property's valuation (or in certain cases the purchase price, whichever is lower). We require the property to be insured. If not insured through us, we reserve the right to charge an administration fee of £25. Written quotations are available on request. Rates correct at time of going to press. *As a percentage of purchase price or valuation whichever is lower. Abbey National plc, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, only sells its own life assurance, pension and unit trust products. Abbey National, the Umbrella Couple symbol and The habit of a lifetime are trademarks of Abbey National plc. Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL, United Kingdom.

Islanders whip up storm over Iron Age cover-up

WILL BENNETT

The winds which gust across the remote Scottish island of Great Bernera with Hebridean vigour have whipped up a dispute about the future of a late Iron Age village which is being excavated by archaeologists.

The problem for the experts digging at the 2,000-year-old site is that the wind is stripping away the sand surrounding the walls making them difficult to preserve once they have completed their excavations.

Historic Scotland, which is responsible for ancient sites, has upset people on Great Bernera, off the larger island of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides, by suggesting that the village should be covered over when digging has finished.

This is an alternative plan to remove some stones from the site to an as yet undecided location has triggered the first rebellion on the island since crofters rioted over the threat of eviction in 1874.

It is being led by Count

Robin de la Lanne Mirreles, 73, a French-born aristocrat, who has been the laird of the 7,000-acre island since 1962.

He said: "I am thrilled by the find and want to see it preserved. I own the foreshore and therefore this site. Unless it can be proved an engineering impossibility I do not want my property tampered with. Nor should any of the artefacts be removed off this island."

The village, which covers a quarter of an acre by the seashore, was discovered by a team from the Edinburgh University centre for field archaeology after repeated finds of persistent reports of stone walls and pottery falling out of a rapidly eroding shoreline.

The houses on the site, which is unlikely to be fully excavated, were built by lining large holes dug in the sand with stone and covering these with low thatched roofs.

The floors, walls and lintels have survived and so too have the remnants of rubbish tips which have given archaeologists

an insight into how Iron Age islanders lived. Although the sea has been responsible for some erosion, wind has stripped away sand to expose the walls.

Dr Noel Fojut, principal inspector of ancient monuments for Historic Scotland, said: "The walls of these houses were meant to be supported by sand, not free-standing, and are quite dangerous once the sand has gone from around them. We do not have the technological means to make these walls stick together."

Talks are continuing aimed at finding a solution but Historic Scotland, which has provided more than £68,000 for the excavations, has annoyed people by suggesting the site should be covered. The Rev Donald Macaulay, a former convener of Western Isles Council who lives on Great Bernera, said: "We would like to see the site preserved so that people can see what was going on 2,000 years ago. It is of great interest and it is of value to us from the tourist point of view."



Sands of time: Jim Crawford, a stonemason, at the 2,000-year-old village site on Great Bernera, Outer Hebrides. Photograph: Colin McPherson

Blitz on reading standards promised

JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, yesterday promised tough new measures to improve reading in schools.

Details of her plans, which are likely to include a tightening of teacher-training standards, will be announced today to coincide with publication of a report highlighting reading problems in inner-city schools.

The report from the Office for Standards in Education is expected to show that nearly eight out of 10 seven-year-olds in the London boroughs of Islington, Southwark and Tower Hamlets are below expected standards in reading. Mrs Shephard said at the weekend that if inspectors needed greater powers to conduct more such inspections, they would be given them.

The report says teachers were held back by lack of knowledge about how to teach children to read so time spent teaching reading was often wasted. Mrs Shephard wants the list of criteria which trainee teachers have to meet defined more precisely and greater emphasis put on basic skills.

Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, who will present the report, has consistently argued that too many "progressive" teaching methods lower standards. The three local authorities have accused him of altering the report for political reasons.

A Department for Education and Employment spokeswoman said: "Mrs Shephard has read the report on London's schools. She plans to be with the chief inspector when he gives his press conference tomorrow and

will make her own statement immediately afterwards, when: "She will be announcing tougher measures in response to the findings in the report."

Ministers have overspent the publicity budget for nursery vouchers by more than 50 per cent but have failed to persuade one-fifth of parents to apply for vouchers, according to official figures released yesterday.

Parents in four local authorities have been offered vouchers worth £1,100 to buy nursery education in state, private or voluntary nurseries. The scheme will be extended to all local authorities next April.

Figures in parliamentary answers to David Blunkett, the Labour spokesman for education, show that £1.1m has been spent so far on publicity, compared with the original budget of £750,000. Yet the figures also show that one in five parents has not applied for a voucher. In Kensington and Chelsea, 55 per cent have applied, in Westminster 60 per cent, Wandsworth 84 per cent and Norfolk 92 per cent.

"It would be hard to conceive a more convoluted and bureaucratic way of promoting an expansion of nursery provision," Mr Blunkett said.

Ministers want the scheme to create more places in private and voluntary nurseries but the figures reveal that two-thirds of four-year-olds in the four local authorities already have places in state schools or nurseries.

A Department for Education and Employment spokeswoman said: "We have a duty to provide information to parents and providers. The intense level of interest they have shown bodes well for when the scheme goes national."

"Wouldn't it be nice if the wondrous, futuristic,

virtual

world of the Internet was just a little less, well, virtual?"

UPDATE Something magical is happening to our planet. It's getting smaller. Every day, more people and more information are making the Internet a place of incredible opportunity and transformation.

Suddenly, people just like you have access to potential customers, business contacts, partners and competitors in every corner of the planet.

How can you make the most of this opportunity? Well, we'd like to help.

We have all of the minds and resources of IBM focused on the emerging world of networked computing.

Over the next few months, we're going to discuss strategies and technologies to help you get from here to there. Let's start by talking about what's going on across the planet.

Electronic commerce is becoming a reality thanks to improved security and encryption technology like our innovative Cryptolopes which ensure that messages are read only by the people you want reading them.

Cybermalls are springing up everywhere, letting companies sell their wares to millions of customers on line, without costly premises.

Instead of gathering dust in a warehouse, products are made and shipped to order.

And what's more, the more enterprise data you can bring on line, the wider you can cast your net.

The managed IBM Global Network is helping companies connect. Enterprises are expanding to give customers and suppliers piping hot information on prices, inventory and delivery schedules. Making them more efficient and honing their competitive edge.

All thanks to one of the world's largest managed data networks with managed access from Rio to Reykjavik and 848 other cities worldwide.

By using Lotus Notes over the Internet, people in remote locations can work on the same project simultaneously, expanding their reach even further.

If you are eager to take advantage of the Internet, you don't need to be a millionaire. Or a genius. You just need to drop by www.ibm.com or call 0800 075 075 for further information highlighting how IBM can help your business thrive in a networked world.

This is just beginning. We have a lot more to share with you. Just remember: it's a small planet. And it's yours.

IBM

Solutions for a small planet

DAILY POEM

Postscript

By Seamus Heaney

And some time make the time to drive out west
Into County Clare, along the Flagg's Shore,
In September or October, when the wind
And the light are working off each other
So that the ocean on one side is wild
With foam and glitter, and inland among stones
The surface of a slate-grey lake is lit
By the earthen lightning of a flock of swans,
Their feathers roughed and ruffling, white on white,
Their fully grown headstrong-looking heads
Tucked or cresting or busy underwater.
Useless to think you'll park and capture it
More thoroughly: You are neither here nor there,
A hurry through which known and strange things pass
As big soft buffeting come at the car sideways
And catch the heart off guard and blow it open.

The *Spirit Level*, from which this poem is taken, is Seamus Heaney's first book of poems since he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1995. It is, quite simply, the collection of the year. Heaney's daring lightness of touch, his talismanic way of seeing, a conjuring of an almost physical ache of the beauty and the pain of what it is to be alive, is unsurpassed. He is that rarest of creatures: a poet with an abiding sense of how the past informs, but also comforts, the present, and permits us both to make sense of it and to restore balance. *The Spirit Level* is published by Faber at £7.99. Seamus Heaney reads tonight at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London's South Bank at 7.30pm. Ticket returns only.

Radiation may trigger fatal wasting disease

GLENDIA COOPER

High levels of radiation could trigger Motor Neurone Disease, the fatal neurological illness suffered by Professor Stephen Hawking, according to new research by British scientists.

Researchers from the John Bevan MND Research Unit at Brunel University, Middlesex, have published two reports claiming there is a connection between the disease and alpha radiation, which results in higher incidence of the disease and people dying at a younger age.

The researchers looked at radon gas concentrations in England and Wales between 1981-9 and deaths from MND. They also studied patterns of disease in Japan following nuclear testing in the Pacific in the 1950s and 1960s. While radiation does not actually cause the disease, it acts as a trigger factor to accelerate it in the small percentage of the population who are already susceptible, the authors concluded.

Motor neurone disease, also known as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or Lou Gehrig's disease, generally strikes in middle age. It affects nerves in the brain and spinal cord, and leads to the wasting of the muscles controlled by these nerves. Almost total paralysis follows. It was first clinically reported in 1870, but there has been little progress since in therapy. The disease does not affect the brain itself, as has been demonstrated by the life of Professor Hawking, the Cambridge physicist and author, who has suffered from MND for about 25 years.

Overall there are 3 deaths per 100,000 population in Britain which Dr Stuart Neilson, director of Medical Information Systems at the Brunel unit, says has risen 130 per cent since the 1960s when there were only 500 deaths per year. He says the "phenomenal increase" is due mainly to increased life expectancy with people living long enough to develop MND.

Those who die from MND tend to do so between the ages of 60 and 80, with the peak being at 70. But the British study found that those who lived in areas of high radon concentration tended to die on average two and a half years earlier. Radiation exposure comes mainly from natural sources in Britain, with nearly half accounted for by radon gas. Only

13 per cent comes from artificial sources, of which 12 per cent comes from medical sources and 1 per cent from occupational exposure or industrial discharges. Certain areas in Britain have particularly high areas of radon concentration - Cornwall, Devon, Northamptonshire and Somerset. In these areas MND mortality rate amongst men was much higher - 3.85 per 100,000 in Cornwall.

The results confirmed earlier work the researchers had done on MND mortality rates in Japan between the years 1950 and 1990. Between the years of 1950 and 1963, until the Test Ban Treaty came into force, there were atmospheric weapons tests in the Pacific area.

In 1951 there was a mortality rate of 2.12 per 100,000 amongst the Japanese aged 55 or more. By 1963 this had jumped to a rate of 3.22 and amongst older men it even reached 4.5 per 100,000. The cessation of atom tests saw the rate drop swiftly to 2.39 per 100,000 in 1974.

Dr Neilson said he hoped the findings would lead to a greater understanding of the disease and what causes susceptibility to it.

A tantalising glimpse of the good life as artist puts exhibitions on the road



Motor show: A 1961 Ford Consul owned by the artist Fred Pipes and containing models of a kissing couple in homage to the film, *La Dolce Vita*, at the 30th Brighton Festival which continues until 26 May. Local artists traditionally open their homes to the public. Photograph: Andrew Haddon

'Stupidvision' daytime TV slated

A former senior journalist at the BBC yesterday accused daytime television of being "Stupidvision".

Polly Toynbee, a columnist at the *Independent* and a former BBC social affairs correspondent, said daytime television looked cheap, was without character and was 20 years out of date.

She launched her attack in the *Radio Times* and asked readers to send in their suggestions for alternative programmes during the day to replace the "weary grunge of the past".

Ms Toynbee says: "Most of it looks cheap and designed for no one in particular - perhaps some computerised calculation of the lowest common denominator."

"It is tepid, dishwater soup, without character or flavour, inhabiting some cardboard world 20 years out of date, in some imaginary middle suburbia."

"It is Stupidvision - where most of the presenters look like they have to pretend to be stupid because they think their audience is."

"In other words, it patronises. It talks to the vacuum cleaner and the washing machine and the microwave, without much

contact with the human brain."

Daytime television was the professional "graveyard", with a lack of new ideas and risky formats. But the BBC pointed out last night that most of its daytime programmes were popular - and said it had already announced a re-think of morning shows following the scrapping of its programme *Good Morning with Anne and Nick*.

Ms Toynbee said there were some exceptions: good cookery shows such as *Can't Cook, Won't Cook* and *Ready Steady Cook*, and the "magic insanity" of *Supermarket Sweep*.

Warrant Officer George Fuller inhabits a rapidly shrinking world. In his 37 years with the RAF, he has been turfed out of one far-flung base after another from Hawaii to Belize, and even from garrisons closer to home, such as Abingdon in Oxfordshire. "Wherever I go, it gets closed down," he laments. The jinx has followed him to RAF Bruggen, two runways cut on the German-Dutch border. The base was to have been the last outpost of British air power on the Continent beyond the millennium. But on Wednesday the Government announced that Bruggen's 52 Tornados would fly home by 2002, ending the RAF's presence in mainland Europe. Though WO Fuller is due to retire in 18 months' time when

he reaches 55, he is full of foreboding. By doing away with foreign bases, he fears the RAF will lose its main drawing power: adventure. "The British services used to recruit with the slogan 'Join the Air Force, see the world, meet the people, and bomb them'," he said. "In my day, we never considered serving in England." After 2002 any bombing will have to be long-range, and servicemen will spend more time away from their families, training in Canada's Arctic wilderness. "That's going to put a great strain on marriages, and that will not be good for morale," said Sgt Glenn Walker, who at 32 is ushering in the new era. Most of the RAF personnel at Bruggen are married with children, who are nurtured by

Servicemen and locals are upset by decision to leave Bruggen, writes Imre Karacs

a strong community and excellent schools. "People used to look forward to a tour of duty in Germany," says Valerie Thomas, the wife of a wing commander. The men come in the knowledge that their families will be well looked after. The women are kept busy by voluntary work, coffee mornings, shopping trips to a choice of three countries, and club life in the evening. The Forces' radio and television stations keep the ex-

pats in touch with British news. The tedium of living in a bubble is relieved by Club Med-style leisure facilities, including an 18-hole golf course, tennis courts and subsidised ski trips. "We certainly don't want to go back to the UK in a hurry," said Mrs Thomas. The locals are in no mood to hasten her departure. "We have always looked at the possible closure of the base with one eye in tears and the other smiling," says Karl-Heinz Kreder, mayor of the district council. Apart from the money the airmen were spending at the village's tax-free shops, Mr Kreder stands to lose nearly DM6m (£2.7m) a year in German government subsidies, paid to service the British population. The empty houses will most

likely be allocated to immigrants from the former Soviet Union such as Kazakhs. Mr Kreder leaves no doubt that he prefers the Brits to the Kazakhs. But German hostility to the hawks largely to blame for the decision, as Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence, admitted on Wednesday. Because of a German ban on low-flying, the RAF has to carry out all training in Britain. Senior officers concede it makes more sense to repatriate the aircraft. But they wonder whether Mr Portillo's pledge that the RAF's wings will not be fatally clipped in the process is realistic. "We are going to become a UK-based air force with a world-wide commitment," said one. And that, he said, will be mission impossible.

Tornados' flight home clips wings of RAF

The Perfect PC for Home

Dan's new PCs are ideal for the entire family because they are fast, powerful, reliable and loaded with great features. These systems include a multimedia kit with sound card and fast CD-ROM, a fax-modem and a range of software titles to enable everyone to work, play and learn.

dantum Home PC

in a mid-tower case

- With the most powerful processor 75+ 166MHz Pentium Processor
- Lots of fast memory 32MB RAM
- Fast hard disk drive 32MB IDE HDD
- Great graphics 1MB DRAM 32MB VRAM
- 11.5" Super VGA 15" Monitor
- 14" Super VGA 15" Monitor
- Best multimedia 4X SPEED CD-ROM
- Soundblaster 16 W/ Speakers
- Connect to INTERNET via 14.4Kbps Modem

Also included: Microsoft Works, Encarta '96 US Encyclopedia, Lotus Organizer & 3 Famous Games: BioForge, Magic Carpet, Theme Park, Hi-Octane & FIFA Int Soccer.

from **£1216** inc VAT for 75MHz System

Add £388 inc VAT for 166MHz System

Monthly Payment Scheme Available

dan technology plc

London: 0181 830 1100 Leeds: 0113 259 1200

LONDON, Ironbridge Close, Great Central Way, London NW10 0NW. FAX: 0181-830 1122
LEEDS, 10 Forest Field, Town Street, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 4TJ. FAX: 0113-239 0852
ISRAEL: S.G.M. Computers Ltd. Tel: +972 109 563536 FAX: +972 109 563537

Delivery cost to most of UK for one system is £18 inc VAT. E&OE.

dan technology plc systems and specifications are subject to change without notice. All sales are subject to our technology policy and conditions of sale. A copy of the policy and conditions is available on request. *Workstations are not included. Intel, Pentium and OverDrive are trademarks of Intel Corporation. Microsoft, Windows and Windows 95 are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation.

Opening Hours/Showroom: Mon-Fri 10am-6pm

Irritable Bowel Syndrome

If you suffer bowel problems such as constipation, irregular diarrhoea, stomach cramps, excessive wind and symptoms aggravated by food, you should know about a new book *The IBS Handbook*. The book contains comprehensive information on the bowel... how it functions, what can go wrong, how the author feels it can best be treated and how to protect yourself from Irritable Bowel Syndrome. The author gives you his specific advice on what causes IBS and how to relieve embarrassing symptoms without drugs. This book tells you about alternative or natural remedies and how they work. The author shares with you techniques that can help bring fast relief when a problem arises. And he identifies common foods, which he feels should be avoided at all costs. You'll discover how the digestive system works and what you should eat to restore regular habits. The book covers actual case histories of men and women who suffered Irritable Bowel Syndrome and how they were able to overcome them. Many people are putting up with troublesome bowel symptoms because they are unaware of all the treatments on offer and the welcome relief that is now available. *Get all the facts - order your copy today. The IBS Handbook - £9.95 post paid (coupon below)*

Diabetes Problems?

A new book reveals the latest medical treatments and natural aids to make living with diabetes easier. It is of vital interest to all sufferers. Here are some of the topics covered in this *Complete Diabetes Handbook*. The most important symptoms of diabetes... including the difference between insulin and non-insulin dependence. 12 things you should eat regularly... 14 to eat only in moderation... and 13 to avoid altogether if you are overweight. The connection between obesity and diabetes. Why diabetes needs to take particular care of their feet... 12 don'ts and 6 don'ts. Carrying out your own blood glucose control tests. Diabetes and sex - important considerations. Diabetes control during pregnancy. Fatigue caused by diabetes - how complementary therapies can help. What to do in a case of hypoglycaemia. General types of insulin and different ways of injecting it. The importance of exercise in diabetes control. And much, much more. *The Complete Diabetes Handbook - £9.95 post paid (coupon below)*

Flatten Your Belly!

If you want to flatten your stomach and trim your waist, you need to know about a new book written by a leading fitness expert. The book shows you a simple way to give yourself a flat and attractive stomach - even if your "pot" belly failed. This book shows you a simple exercise routine that takes less than 10 minutes to do - it need only be done three times a week to help transform your stomach from unsightly flab to a flat, trim waistline. Your posture will improve, too, while nagging back problems often disappear. Forget about expensive exercise equipment, health spas and starvation diets... this belly flattening programme will work for you or you pay nothing. What could be fairer than that? *3 Simple Steps to Flatten Your Belly - £9.95 post paid (coupon below)*

Panic Attacks?

If you suffer panic attacks or general anxiety that cause symptoms such as dizziness or feeling faint, rapid heartbeat, feelings of unreality, fear of losing control or dying, shortness of breath, sweating, nausea or upset stomach, you need to get a copy of the new book, *How to Overcome Anxieties, Panic Attacks & Phobias*. The book contains the latest information on panic and general anxiety disorders - what causes problems, how best to treat the problem, and how to protect yourself from troublesome panic and anxiety distress. The book gives you specific facts on the latest natural, alternative and medical remedies that can bring prompt and lasting relief. You'll discover what you can do to stop panic attacks and anxiety, the basic causes of the problem and what to avoid at all costs. The book covers actual case histories of people who suffered panic and general anxiety problems and how they were able to overcome their problems. Many people are putting up with troublesome panic attacks, general anxiety and phobias because they are unaware of new treatments and the welcome relief that is now available. *Get all the facts. Order your copy today. How to Overcome Anxieties, Panic Attacks & Phobias - £9.95 post paid (coupon below)*

Your Arteries Can Clean Themselves

Your arteries can eliminate, by themselves, the deposits obstructing them. In exactly the same way as a jet of water can loosen mud from a wall, your blood flow can clean out your arteries if it is not full of harmful impurities. In a recent book Alexis Anzieux explains how a natural diet can significantly improve arterial problems. Recent observations show that the traditional "anti-cholesterol" diets fail to clean out the arteries properly. It would appear, for example, that butter eaten in reasonable quantities is better for your arteries than

How to collect Social Security at any age

Every year, thousands of millions of pounds are offered to you by the Government. You are entitled to it. In some schemes, the take up rate is only a third of those eligible - just because most people don't even know the Government owes them that money. A new book tells how every UK citizen can collect their share of the £68 thousand million that will be handed out this year by the Government. The book explains how to collect social security before retirement, income, supplements, education benefits and unemployment job training. Here are just a few facts covered: How 4,820,000 people collect monthly benefits from one scheme alone. How 12,185,000 children get regular benefit payments. How to qualify for disability pensions (more than 970,000 collecting but thousands more eligible). How to know when to quit work and start collecting monthly retirement benefits. How you must be claiming your right to cash benefits rightfully due to you. How to collect unemployment benefits even if you quit your job or were fired. How to get free legal assistance. How to get well-paid Government jobs. How to collect a £30,000 grant for home improvements. How to collect £3,600 or much more a year to attend college. How to get free prescriptions, spectacles and dental care. How to collect hundreds of pounds a month to pay your rent. How to obtain thousands of pounds of free Government services. How certain people collect hundreds of pounds extra a month to supplement the family income. *The Government Benefits Handbook - £9.95 post paid (coupon below)*

Lose Weight Naturally

A new book explains how you can lose weight the natural way and why dieting is not the answer. It is of vital importance to anyone who has experienced problems keeping their weight down. Here are a few facts from this *Complete Guide To Losing Weight Naturally*. How to avoid mid to late afternoon cravings. 6 tips that will help you eat less and enjoy your food more. Which foods produce maximum weight loss. The best time to exercise for losing weight. 7 natural medicine treatments to help you lose weight. A sure-fire way to keep your optimum weight once you reach it. *The Complete Guide To Losing Weight Naturally - £9.95 post paid (coupon below)*

Hair Loss?

A new book reveals the latest medical treatments and natural ways to grow hair. The *Complete Guide to Growing New Hair* shows you what to do if you think you are losing your hair... actual case histories of men and women who have experienced rapid hair regrowth following the hair rejuvenation programme outlined in this complete guide... a diet to speed up hair growth - how it works for others, and how it could give you new hair growth... what vitamin and mineral supplements you need now for hair growth... how any woman can stop hair loss and prevent hair thinning... 3 drinks which, if taken in any excess, may be stopping your body's assimilation of vital hair nutrients. And that's not all - you'll also learn about drugs, including Minoxidil, and possible unwanted side effects... which shampoo to use for what sort of hair to stop hair loss and promote hair growth... alternative therapies to prevent hair loss and accelerate hair growth... specific hair diseases and how they can be treated... the latest hair transplant techniques and natural remedies that could help your hair grow. *Order The Complete Guide to Growing New Hair - £9.95 post paid (coupon below)*

To: Carnell plc, Dept HB120, Alresford, Colchester, Essex CO7 8AP or telephone our 24 hour order line on 01206 825600 (quoting Dept code). Please send me the book(s) indicated below, on the understanding that I can return them at any time within three months for a full refund if not completely satisfied.

<input type="checkbox"/> The IBS Handbook	<input type="checkbox"/> The Complete Guide to Growing New Hair	<input type="checkbox"/> The Government Benefits Handbook
<input type="checkbox"/> How to Overcome Anxieties, Panic Attacks & Phobias	<input type="checkbox"/> The Complete Guide to Losing Weight Naturally	<input type="checkbox"/> Your Arteries Can Clean Themselves

I am ordering (please tick appropriate box):
☐ ONE book for £9.95 postpaid
☐ TWO books for £14.95 postpaid
☐ THREE books for £19.95 postpaid
If you would like to order more than 3 books, please add £5.50 for each additional book.

☐ I enclose my cheque/PO for £ (paid to: _____)
☐ Please charge my Visa/Access card: Exp date: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
Date: _____

Signed: _____
Please print name and address clearly on the back of this card and return to: Carnell plc, Dept HB120, Alresford, Colchester, Essex CO7 8AP.



It begins over one hundred million years ago when naturally carbonated water first bubbled through a spring at Vergèze, southern France.

This remarkable phenomenon lay unnoticed until 218w., when Hannibal (of elephants fame) discovered it. When the Romans arrived, they proved quite partial to a drop, too.



Later still, Napoleon decreed that it should be bottled "for the goodness of France."

For centuries, the pleasures of this unique water were passed on from Frenchman to Frenchman.

But it took an Englishman to put it on the map.

In 1903 St. John Harmsworth found himself convalescing at Vergèze. Mindful of the water's health-giving properties, his doctor prescribed it.

The effect was more dramatic than the doctor bargained for. Harmsworth immediately bought the spring and started bottling its contents for commercial sale.



As a tribute, he named the new product after the man who had introduced it to him: Dr. Perrier. In a further flash of inspiration, he modelled the bottles on the shape of the Indian clubs he had been exercising with during his convalescence. Et voila—Perrier water.

Today, nothing much has changed. Perrier still gushes from that same spring.

Those same natural gases still infuse it with the same effervescence.

It is still untouched by additives, chemicals and human hand.

And of course, it still sports its famous green glass bottle. (Glass, because mere plastic cannot preserve Perrier's distinctive sparkle for long periods.)

In short, it is still the original.

Or should that be original?

perrier

Victims of the abusers

A devastating report into child abuse in North Wales, kept secret by Clwyd County Council but disclosed here, reveals chaos in the council's social services department and failure to act on a catalogue of complaints of physical and sexual assaults spanning decades. **Roger Dobson reports**

Help that came 'too little, too late'

The inquiry report into child abuse in North Wales, which has been kept secret by Clwyd County Council, provides a devastating critique of poor social services management and missed opportunities in dealing with widespread abuse in children's homes.

"Too little, too late" was the council's response to reports of abuse, according to a 300-page independent report which talks of a "chaotic" organisation in a Clwyd social services department which had failed to learn from its mistakes.

There had been at least 10 internal investigations by the council, several of which covered residential homes, but the report says: "Many of the professions interviewed by the independent panel expressed the view that Clwyd social services was very good at reviewing itself but has failed consistently to learn from its mistakes and been unable to implement a full range of appropriate safeguards."

"We are of the opinion that Clwyd social services does not appear to have been able to learn from its own internal inquiries. Reviews... are commissioned with no real attempt to implement the findings."

"A number of the internal investigations point to a chaotic state of overall management by Clwyd social services of its residential childcare provision."

"It is inescapable that the heart of the problems in Clwyd has been the lack of rigour in the matter of personnel policy and procedure. Our investigations have led us to the conclusion that the abuse of children and young people in Clwyd residential units has been extensive and (took) place over a substantial number of years."

"What was described by the North Wales police as the largest investigation of child abuse resulted in 3,755 witness statements being taken. This resulted in four men being convicted. Not less than 24 people were recognised victims of these crimes: offences include buggery, indecent assault, cruelty, actual bodily harm."



No safe haven: The former Bryn Estyn children's home in Wrexham which featured in witness statements taken by police. Photograph: Paul Sanders

"It is clear that the lives of young people who have been through the care system in Clwyd have been severely disrupted. At least 12 young people are dead."

"It is unclear how many other professionals, including police officers, were named in these statements as perpetrators. We know of at least three current employees of Clwyd social services who were interviewed as part of the investigation. To our knowledge none of them was disciplined."

"It would be tempting for those who wish to avoid any further critical examination of the issues to propose that the failings were confined to Clwyd

and to seek to draw a line under them."

"The panel has no doubt that the roles of other agencies such as health, education, probation, the North Wales Police and the Welsh Office, require similar careful and detailed scrutiny if more effective safeguards are to be put in place."

"Major gaps in our knowledge, along with the decisions of individuals and agencies not to meet with us, or in some instances to provide us with only limited information, has meant we have been left with misgivings which can only be answered or dispelled through further detailed examination of these matters."

"We raise these issues to indicate the degree of concern and disquiet felt in a number of quarters, from ex-residents themselves, to government ministers, to the care of children in the past and to some extent the present have been sufficient to generate numerous requests for a public inquiry."

"Our findings show that time and time again the response to indications that children may have been abused has been too little and too late... Our criticisms in this regard apply not only to Clwyd but also to the Welsh Office, the North Wales Police and constituent agencies, in so far as we were able to examine their contribution to our investigation."

"A second overarching finding is that there has been a conflict of interest... the interests of young people have almost invariably been sacrificed to the false conviction that to take no action was the only response."

"Our findings also question the outcomes and use made of previous investigations. There have been to our knowledge at least 10 internal inquiries within Clwyd."

"We welcome the commitment of the county council to what we believe to be publication in its entirety. We believe that all those with a responsibility for child protection

matters in Clwyd have an inescapable duty to read our report in full."

"We consider that a public judicial inquiry under the arrangements set out under section 250 of the Local Government Act should be initiated."

"We highlight the issues below which we consider to be of considerable public interest and which require urgent scrutiny, guidance and review."

"First and foremost, children have a right to safe group living. We note that many local authority residential units are being closed. However there are other group-living arrangements where vulnerable children may be placed. These include edu-

cation boarding placements which are required to be inspected only every four years; child psychiatric units where we are unclear about what inspections are undertaken; and youth custody and remand centres, as well as the increasing private-sector provision including small homes which currently fall outside of the usual inspection services."

"All of these group-living environments are potential target areas for sex offenders. Hence a tightening of recruitment, monitoring and supervision in one type of establishment must be followed by a similar tightening in other types of establishments."

"There is an evident increase in investigations of settings for vulnerable service users including children... Underpinning our concern is the belief that children and families have a right to safe care and local authorities have a duty to take reasonable care to ensure that this safety is provided."

"Secondly, insurance issues are complex. It is clear that the interests of the insurers of Clwyd have in recent years played an important part in the investigations of child abuse. We know however that this is not a situation unique to Clwyd."

"Thirdly, the management of large police investigations into child-protection matters, including retrospective allegations, needs urgent consideration."

"Fourthly, the discrepancies across public departments or between the law and guidance on written warnings in disciplinary matters, are all contributing factors to abuse continuing."

"It is clear that sex offenders can and do network so that circumstantial investigations and strict adherence to, for example, [police] force boundaries, as evidenced by the use of the police database, Holmes, are clearly sometimes not in the best interests of children and their right to safe caring."

"These issues are all of fundamental importance. We regard it as imperative that they are addressed in the full view of public scrutiny."

Strained relations with police hampered inquiries

The report calls for an urgent independent inquiry into the police investigation of complaints of abuse at children's homes in Clwyd.

It also criticises the joint investigation was handled, and wants a national database set up to establish links between sex offenders. The report also reveals that a dossier of names of "suspicious" people was presented

to police by Clwyd in 1991: "A number of former residents we interviewed stated that they made complaints when they absconded from their residential units. Indeed they frequently absconded precisely because of the abuse they were experiencing within their units."

"The independent panel

heard from a number of informed sources... that the relationship between the Chief Constable and some representatives of the council were strained. Additionally we were told by a number of social services staff of dissatisfaction at operational level with their dealings with the police."

"Since we were not able to meet with any police officers during our investigation we were unable to confirm or refute this. It would appear that the policy of joint investigation of child matters was not followed in Clwyd in a major police investigation instigated in 1991. We were told that the rationale for this was that the majority of complainants being interviewed were now adults."

"Our understanding of the manner in which the police investigation was mounted stems from the letter of July 1991 from the county solicitor to the Chief Constable outlining a number of concerns regarding residential childcare in Clwyd."

"It raises the issue of a paedophile ring in North Wales. It also contains... a list of suspicions, and a list of named individuals about whom there were queries. Following this letter an extensive police investigation took place."

"The new Chief Constable for North Wales, Michael Argent, declined to meet with the independent panel; although he provided some statistical data to use, many of our questions remain unanswered."

"Findings: It has become evident during our investigations that the public and some social

work professionals, have serious concerns about the involvement of the police in the recent investigation which may compromise future collaborations in child-protection matters..."

"It appears to us that much of the major police investigation was managed in such a way that precluded the utilisation of

work professionals, have serious concerns about the involvement of the police in the recent investigation which may compromise future collaborations in child-protection matters..."

"It appears to us that much of the major police investigation was managed in such a way that precluded the utilisation of

One care worker's shady past

- April 1974. Applied for senior houseparent post at one home (Little Acton), was offered another (Bryn Estyn) instead.
- June 1974. Told director of an offence he had committed in his previous job. Twice interviewed successfully for senior houseparent post.
- December 1978. First allegation of physical assault.
- March 1980. Director expressed concern after further similar physical assault complaint made against him.
- September 1981. Three complaints of physical assault.
- May 1982. Further complaint of physical assault.
- January 1983. Further allegation of physical assault.
- April 1984. Deployed to another home.
- August 1985. Suspended after allegations of physical assault.
- January 1986. Move to centre for mentally handicapped adults.
- December 1988. Allegation of physical assault on resident.
- August 1987. Requests transfer back to child care. March 1992. Arrested in a major police investigation. November 1994. Guilty of common assault, and assault causing actual bodily harm. Suspended prison sentence of 15 months.

Clwyd's existing professional social work skills and expertise in child protection."

"It is our view that retrospective allegations of child abuse made by former juveniles who have reached adult status should be given the same degree of investigatory care... as [has] been developed in relation to young people under 18."

"We strongly urge that consideration be given to an inquiry, as a matter of urgency, into the police investigation of com-

plaints of child physical and sexual abuse in Clwyd's residential homes... We feel there is a need for a national database whereby in situations of suspected organised institutional abuse, connections can be made across police boundaries."

"Turning to the work of the Welsh Social Services Inspe-

the chief inspector in October 1990 requesting, with the agreement of the county council, an inspection into the running of [another Clwyd home]. The chief inspector declined."

"Our view, albeit with the benefit of hindsight, is that by that time the problems in Clwyd residential homes had reached an acute level, assistance from the Welsh Office... might have gone towards identifying an abusive situation which only fully emerged over several years following the director's request for help."

"The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Nicholas Bennett, [later] instructed the inspectorate to undertake a review... In undertaking the review, considerable reliance was placed on a postal questionnaire to obtain a profile of the service and of individual homes. This had the disadvantage of being dependent on information submitted by the providers..."

"The report analyses the responses of the eight Welsh local authorities. It states: 'These responses reveal a service which has been poorly directed and undermined. If good work is being done, it is in spite of the lack of... explicit policies and a supportive management'."

"Among the conclusions of the report is: 'Training in the recognition of the signs of distress and the experiences of sexual abuse among children should be part of the skills package of all those working with children.'"

"There is a well-established constellation of factors which is frequently associated

with poor management and residential care and with the attitudes and behaviour of staff and children which can give strong pointers towards the possibility of abuse."

"The factors identified as being present in situations of institutional abuse had all been consistently and obviously present in Clwyd over 20 years: ■ Recruitment policy not standardised or rigorously implemented. ■ Lack of professional qualifications and insufficient in-house training. ■ Inadequate police checks. ■ Lack of clear role boundaries for staff. ■ Confusions over responsibilities. ■ Individual children targeted for special favours. ■ High concentrations of vulnerable children with low esteem who are easier to target. ■ Lack of care plans. ■ Little or no involvement of children's wider network, including family, friends, social worker and other professionals."

"We consider that a sensitive and regular programme of inspections, reviews, monitorings and spot checks is likely to provide the kind of support which encourages good professional practice. We consider unproven the Welsh Office statement that the 1992 review did not reveal the cause of concern which led to it."

"Access to information to the extent of internal investigations into Clwyd's residential services would have signalled to senior management at the Welsh Office that residential care for children was in a precarious and potentially dangerous state."

behavioral presentation is wholly consistent with experience of sexual abuse or some other traumatic abusive experience."

It goes on: "However, a clear message was evident from the police that there would be no further action regarding Christine's disclosure." Christine later made allegations against residential care staff and one person was later sacked, partly on the basis of her information."

The report adds: "It is clear that the professional network with whom Christine was in contact failed to have regard to any academic literature on sexual abuse. Her behaviour indicators were classic symptoms."

PSSSSST

IF YOU
SPEND AT
LEAST
£1100 P.A.
(excl. VAT)
ON GAS, WE
COULD SAVE
YOU MONEY

Ring us for a quote and you could soon be enjoying the benefits of switching to low cost gas from Amerada.

There'll be no new pipes, roadworks or inconvenience.

Just savings you can keep to yourself.

HESS

AMERADA HESS GAS

CALL 0500 00 11 00

BRINGING LOW COST
GAS TO YOU

'One day you'll suss me out ... you ain't yet'

"Don't make a judgement that I am a complete liar. Everybody is different. So what always makes me wrong and you and the others right? Just remember you don't own me, I'm not your possession, although I have sometimes felt that way."

"Social services, child guidance have taken everything I have to give and labelled me with so many different names. One day you'll finally suss me out cos you ain't yet, not by a long chalk. Anyway, thanks for being my social worker."

These remarks from Christine, a young girl abused at home and in care, were passed on to the inquiry panel which was told no-one believed what

CHRISTINE'S STORY

she said and that police called her a liar, threatening to arrest her for wasting their time.

But the young child, barely out of primary school, had all the classic symptoms of someone who had been sexually abused at home before she went into care—where she also the subject of abuse. She tried to kill herself, slept on the floor fully clothed, never opened the curtain, did not eat; she refused to take part in physical education at school and she refused to clean her teeth, wanting them to turn brown. In addition, her young brother was soiling the bed and her sister suffered

from asthma. But the young child's desperate calls for help were ignored by care workers.

Professional reports in her file say "these allegations are unfounded". She had a "proneness to fantasy" and was a "deeply troubled young person". She is described in her file as a convincing liar, as someone who cannot be telling the truth because she speaks with no emotion and unlike a child.

Police who investigated the allegations of abuse against her father labelled the girl as a "fantasist" and also pointed out clues like the "books and letters which show her talent for story writing". The police clearly

believed she told untruths and reinterviewed her and during this interview she retracted her original allegations."

Police visited the girl's home after the allegations and found her room in an appalling state. Christine is said not to have eaten since the time her father returned. Another file discloses sexual assault by both her father and step-grandfather. "There is a query about whether the step-grandfather had a history of sexually abusing children, but it appears not to have been investigated," reveals the Jillings report. It adds: "The picture emerges of a young woman who had high levels of contact with her family of origin, whose

behavioral presentation is wholly consistent with experience of sexual abuse or some other traumatic abusive experience."

It goes on: "However, a clear message was evident from the police that there would be no further action regarding Christine's disclosure." Christine later made allegations against residential care staff and one person was later sacked, partly on the basis of her information."

The report adds: "It is clear that the professional network with whom Christine was in contact failed to have regard to any academic literature on sexual abuse. Her behaviour indicators were classic symptoms."

international

Qana massacre: Fijian colonel in charge of UN compound dismisses Israeli claim that attack was a map-reading mistake

'We cried for all of the dead children'

ROBERT FISK
Qana, southern Lebanon

Lieutenant Colonel Wame Waqanivavalagi sat in the front of the television of his smashed officers' mess yesterday afternoon and watched his own headquarters being shelled by the Israelis. As the artillery rounds howled down on the Fijian battalion headquarters at Qana on the videotape in front of him, the colonel - who has spent eight years on United Nations service in southern Lebanon - pointed at the smoke that filled the screen.

"In there, Robert, was an awful place to be," he said. And he shook his head. "The Israeli margin of error was too big to say this was an error. There were two Israeli helicopters observing the shelling in this headquarters - they were observing as shells landed here."

The videotape, which forms the centrepiece of the UN investigation into the attack on Qana - a copy of the film was obtained by the *Independent* - showed an Israeli pilotless reconnaissance drone, used for artillery spotting, flying low over Qana at the height of the Israeli bombardment. The Israelis said it was on "another mission" but Colonel Waqanivavalagi was unimpressed.

"I wouldn't know about 'another mission'," he said pointedly. "All I know is that I was

shelled. My men saw these Israeli drone planes from their observation post. They saw one before the massacre. We know the Israelis are very good at artillery shooting. Much of the time when the Israelis have shot in this area, we would loaf around in the camp. We knew how accurate their shooting was. That's why there was no air of expectancy in the camp before the attack."

The colonel was in his command centre when the first Israeli artillery round to hit the UN base - there were 12 in all - landed near the Fijian UN battalion's outdoor refrigerator on 18 April. "It was chaos," he said. "Everyone was crying. People were being killed. Bodies were flying in the air. At one point there was a big explosion and I looked up and saw a whole house had gone. I saw two of my soldiers carrying bodies in blankets with hands hanging out. People were shouting 'casualties' and four soldiers severely injured."

The colonel raised his hands. "When it was over, I just couldn't believe it - that we could be shelled in our own tactical headquarters. I was astonished. I stood there helpless. I couldn't do anything to stop the whole thing."

But like many of the 150 Fijian soldiers at the Qana base, the colonel has children - two-year-old Lailani, Lorna, six-



After the shelling: 'It was chaos. Everyone was crying. Bodies were flying in the air, my soldiers carried bodies in blankets' Photograph: Globetrotter

and an eight-year-old boy called Sakies - and it was their faces which confronted him when the Israeli shells had killed the last of the 120 or more refugees.

"There were so many dead children and when I saw the bodies, my own children were right in front of me," The colonel put his hand in front of his face, the fingers towards him.

"They were there, like that, so close to me. If they had told me there was going to be a massacre, I wouldn't have come to Lebanon. It is one of the saddest, most deplorable things that any human being can be killed under our security."

Most of the 560 refugees in the camp - another 300 ran into the UN base just before the shelling and after they had heard the Hizbollah mortar fire 350 metres away - had been living among the Fijians for eight days and some of the soldiers had become close friends with the Lebanese civilians, especially the children.

"We had been living with these people for more than a week," the colonel said. "Every night, our soldiers would hold the babies and rock them to sleep for their mothers. My men gave up their beds, their rooms, their food for these

people. They taught us to make the Lebanese *kibbs* food and when we held our Christian service every evening they would all be very quiet and many of the Muslims would come and stand near us and watch us in silence as we prayed."

"It was a relationship with the Lebanese people that we hadn't had in the 18 years our battalions have been here. And then we saw them killed. We were starting to learn each other's culture. And suddenly, everything went away."

The colonel admits that he and most of his men wept in the minutes that followed the end

of the attack. "We all cried. We had known them so well - some of my men were very affected. They knew the kids and they had to pick up pieces of them. They had held the bodies and they had to pick them up in bits. It's just too horrific to describe."

At the weekend, a UN team from New York arrived to provide psychological help for the soldiers, some of whom had slept in groups on the floors in the nights that followed, unable to sleep, jumping at the slightest sound - a car braking or a spoon dropping from a table. Several were recommended immediate home leave.

Colonel Waqanivavalagi did observe several Hizbollah men arrive at the compound after - not before - the shelling. They were, he said, the men who fired the mortars at which the Israelis claimed they were firing.

"They came in to look for their families who were here. And one of them found that all his family had been killed. He was hysterical. He kept shouting 'these are my people'. But the people who died were civilians. They had become our friends. Who cannot see this and think of their children? At the end, I cried inside my soul. Not even tears can describe what happened."

French dispel fears on aid to Muslims

Paris (Reuters) - France sought yesterday to stamp out possible controversy over a statement by a junior minister who said French aid to war-hit Lebanese civilians was in part being distributed by Hizbollah's Muslim fundamentalist guerrillas.

"France's attitude to Hizbollah has not changed," Jacques Rummelhardt, a foreign ministry spokesman, said about a weekend statement during a visit to Lebanon by Xavier Emmanuelli, junior minister for emergency humanitarian action.

While touring southern Lebanon, Mr Emmanuelli answered positively when asked if he knew French aid given to the Lebanese government for distribution was being passed on to Hizbollah for distribution in the field.

"Hizbollah participates ... in medical rescue and social welfare [in southern Lebanon]. There is no reason to exclude them," Mr Emmanuelli said.

The statements were potentially damaging politically since Paris courts have said the Iranian-backed Shia Muslim group was thought to be connected to a bomb attack in Paris in 1986 in which half a dozen people were killed and dozens wounded. The French military also holds Hizbollah responsible for the suicide bombing of a French position in Beirut in 1983 in which 58 paratroopers were killed. Another 241 American Marines were killed in a similar attack there the same day.

Mr Rummelhardt said yesterday: "Mr Emmanuelli was not thinking of anything beyond recognising that Hizbollah can be involved in certain charitable activities."

"But this changes nothing to France's attitude which, I insist, is that Hizbollah must scrupulously respect the 26 April ceasefire agreements ending the cycle of violence."

President Jacques Chirac said last week that France's renewed commitment to Lebanon was demonstrated by aid to civilians who suffered in Israel's retaliatory blitz between 11 and 27 April after rocket attacks by Hizbollah guerrillas.

Mr Chirac, who visited Lebanon days before the conflict broke out and pledged support for Lebanon's sovereignty, has said that French efforts to help broker the ceasefire gave Paris a new diplomatic foothold in the region.

France had a mandate over Lebanon and Syria between the two world wars.

US backing for Israel 'puts peace effort at risk'

JOHN CARLIN
Washington

The announcement yesterday that the Israeli Foreign Minister, Ehud Barak, will meet his US counterpart, Warren Christopher, in Washington tomorrow to discuss plans for an Israeli-American "defence alliance" will only reinforce Arab perceptions of American bias in the Middle East.

At the weekend the Egyptian Foreign Minister and other Arab leaders criticised the failure of both Democrats and Republicans to venture a shred of criticism of Israel's recent bombardment of Lebanon. The time had come, the Arab lead-

ers said, for the European Union to play a more forthright part in restoring some international balance to the Middle East equation.

But, as yesterday's announcement indicates, the response in Washington to the Arab complaints is unlikely to be one of abject apology, much less a policy U-turn. Indeed, President Bill Clinton made it clear last week that his plan is to strengthen America's relations with its traditional Middle Eastern ally. The goal of the envisioned defence alliance with Israel would be "to meet common threats in the years to come", Mr Clinton said. "US-Israeli strategic co-operation," he promised,

"will grow in importance."

Surprisingly, however, the novel idea is beginning to seep through Washington that Arab criticism of American bias towards Israel might not be entirely unjustified and could undermine efforts to achieve a lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

An article in *Sunday's New York Times* pondered the notion that the US government might have mislaid its hand by leaning too heavily behind Israel during the conflagration that claimed 150 Lebanese lives last month.

"There is increasing concern among Middle East specialists that America is losing something

crucial - its critical distance from Israel - and thereby damaging its ability to play the 'honest broker' for Israelis and Arabs," the newspaper said.

If the United States is the most influential international player in the Middle East, the *New York Times* is the newspaper with the most influence on US Middle East policy.

Thus the very consideration of the idea by the *New York Times* that the US might be losing its "critical distance" from Israel presents the possibility of a debate on the previously unattainable.

Or maybe not. In the view of one Middle Eastern specialist the notion that there had been

any American "critical distance" from Israel in the first place was merely a bad joke. "It's like a woman who has been sleeping around a lot," he said, "and suddenly wakes up one morning worrying that people might be saying she is not a virgin any more."

The Clinton administration insists, however, that its motives are pure, driven by the belief that to achieve the paramount objective of peace it is imperative that Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, defeats his hard line Likud rivals in Israel's 29 May elections.

What many Middle East specialists suggested was that more even-handedness was required to prevent the Arab world from becoming calamitously antagonistic towards the US-brokered peace process.

Jim Zogby, the director of Washington's Arab American Institute, believes the US response to the Israeli offensive in Lebanon will have damaging and far-reaching consequences for the Middle East peace effort.

"It is a reminder that even when you have a disproportionate and illegal attack on Lebanon's people, the US cannot find its way to urge restraint on Israel," Mr Zogby said. "And that reminder will have a permanent distorting effect on future US relations in the Middle East."

But could the US cash in its chips with Israel at a later date and apply pressure when obstacles are encountered in the peace process? Mr Zogby had his doubts.

"We won't know until after the Israeli elections. We see what we get." And that is a US political establishment utterly beholden to the domestic pro-Israel lobby.

As Mr Zogby is not alone in observing, bipartisan US policy towards Israel is not so much a function of America's national interest as of the fear all elected officials in Washington have of incurring the wrath of the organised and influential pro-Israel forces inside the US.

This week in



THE INDEPENDENT

This week and every week, Section Two has a new look, with more pages, new features, a daily radio column and an expanded listings section providing Britain's most comprehensive daily guide to going out.



on Monday

A new regular section, *Family Life*, that deals with the interests and problems of parents and children. Julie Myerson's column also focuses on home life. Plus: a new series - Do we need? - which challenges the icons of modern Britain. And, every Monday unrivalled coverage of the expanding world of information technology in our Network pull-out section.

and in Sport

A 24-page tabloid section with all the action from the weekend's sporting action. Plus: the Monday interview in which a leading figure comes under the microscope. An unbeatable results service, gossip, speculation and fact from behind the scenes and the best in sports photography.

on Tuesday

How well are you? The first in a three-part series which examines healthy living in Britain in the

Nineties. Also on Tuesday, fashion, architecture, visual arts and media.

on Wednesday

Bridget Jones's diary continues to chronicle the encounters and exquisite embarrassments in the life of Britain's most-read spinster. Plus: the midweek travel section, your money, finance

and law. In our back pages, Martin Newell, Britain's leading rock poet, and Neil Kerber, one of the country's funniest cartoonists, present their views of the modern world.

on Thursday

All our regular features, including Virginia Ironside's Dilemmas, John Walsh's column, plus film, education

and graduate plus. In the back pages, William Hartston's history of the world in 10 1/2 inches

on Friday

24Seven - a new 20-page pull-out-and-keep entertainment and listings section. Including a complete day-by-day planner for the week ahead, plus

seven-day TV, radio and satellite listings, ticket offers and informed comment on the week's highlights. Plus: eight pages of pop and classical music

she said. "When I realised that tors breached the 1976 Euro- have to amend legislation."

سكالا الجول

international

Brother defends Serb accused of Omarska terror

Kozarac — Mladen Tadic tells his story well, his phrases polished in his interview after interview, his sincerity total. He is a walking PR campaign for his brother, Dusko, who goes on trial today at the Hague charged with crimes against humanity — specifically the torture and murder of Muslim men held at Omarska, a prison camp set up by the Bosnian Serbs in the summer of 1992 to hold the victims of "ethnic cleansing".

Dusan Tadic, his brother says, has Muslim friends (the charges include an allegation that he murdered one such friend) and even spoke out against the thugs looting and burning Muslim property in his home town, Kozarac.

"He is totally innocent," Bosko, a middle-aged man wearing an electric-purple shell suit, said. "They say that all those houses that are not destroyed were saved by him. He protected them."

Perhaps he did, though, if so, his efforts came to naught. Virtually every house in Kozarac, once predominantly Muslim, stands gutted and abandoned, torched to ensure that the inhabitants who escaped would never come back. Along the main street, lined with flowering chestnut trees, only a few buildings stand, those belonging to Serbs.

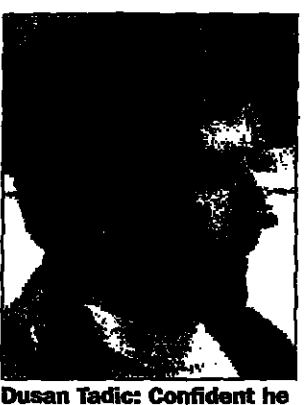
One is the café that once belonged to Dusko, now run by Mladen. A piebald pig rears for scraps beside the wooden tables that stand outside and three surly soldiers play pool at an outdoor table. They are not from Kozarac, and their unfriendly demeanour suggests they have been sent to keep an eye on Mladen.

The local authorities and in particular the police chief in nearby Prijedor are not happy, Mladen says, with the Tadic's campaign to clear Dusko. "Normal people, our neighbours, our friends, are supporting us as much as they can," he said. "However the people who should be helping us the most are not giving us any support."

As Dusan Tadic's trial starts, his brother tells Emma Daly he is no war criminal

This, Mladen claims, is because Dusan, a local official, "knew what was actually happening here". And when he tried to protect the town from the upheaval, Mladen says, Dusan was press-ganged and sent to the front. He escaped and is now wanted for desertion by the Serbs in Bosnia.

"He's accused by the Serbs of being a deserter and by the Muslims of being a war criminal. That's a contradiction," Mladen said, firmly. The allegations of torture and murder are probably true he admits; but his brother is the victim of mistaken identity. "There is one



Dusan Tadic: Confident he will prove his innocence

man here who looks like Dusko's twin and I think he is the one," Mladen explained. "But he has the full protection of the police."

One plank of the Tadic defence is that Dusan was never at Omarska; he certainly did not work there as a guard, but that is an element that makes the allegations yet more heinous. The war crimes tribunal contends that Dusan tortured for fun, that he turned up at Omarska looking for a twisted good time. He is accused of forcing one prisoner to bite off the testicles of another; the second man died.

Dusan has spent a year in

solitary confinement at a purpose-built prison block in Schevingen. "He can hardly wait to get the trial started. He is really looking forward to it," said Mladen, who has to visit another brother in the city of Banja Luka to connect with Dusan's weekly phone calls. "He is confident he will prove his innocence."

So far neither Dusan's wife, Mira, or his two brothers still in Bosnia, have raised the money for a plane ticket to the Hague, Mladen said. Dusan's expertise in karate — the café is filled with black-and-white photos of Dusan and Mladen in karate kit — has stood him in good stead over the past twelve months, Mladen said.

"He has good living conditions at The Hague, including a gym where he can exercise. That has kept him going because you can imagine what it is like to live alone in the jail," he added. "There are some days when he is in a very good mood but other times he is down and he cannot understand for example why none of the local officials will help his case."

The official Serb line towards the tribunal has gradually changed, from outright hostility (it was set up as part of the supposed global conspiracy against Serbs) to demands that it investigate crimes committed against Serbs. But there is no acknowledgement yet that the war-crimes process is a necessary precursor to a real peace in Bosnia.

Still, a few people in Kozarac, the kind of sleepy, small town that ought to exist in happy obscurity, will admit to the need for justice. "All those who acted in an evil way towards other human beings, who killed or raped, should face the tribunal, be they Serbs, Muslims or Croats," Mladen said. "If my brother is guilty he should stand trial. But he is not guilty."

Letters, page 12



Ancient wonder: 'This is the way every city should greet its visitors,' said one tourist, as Petra came into view at the end of a ravine Photograph: Network

Ancient city pays the price of peace

Petra — Like that other coffee-table wonder of the East, the Taj Mahal, Petra transcends all that the late-20th century can throw at it: mass tourism, bustling salesmen and bad poetry.

The Graeco-Roman tombs and temples hewn in the living rock by Nabatean traders 21 centuries ago, still surprise and humble travellers to the desert ghost town.

Since Jordan made peace with Israel in 1994, the trickle of visitors has grown to a stampede, from 700 a day to 4,000: Israelis by the busload, but more often foreigners taking in both flanks of the Holy Land. The government has given up trying to limit the daily influx of tourists.

When I was last here, two years ago, the neighbouring

Travellers in their thousands make the pilgrimage to Petra, writes Eric Silver

bedouin township of Wadi Musa (population 22,000) boasted three hotels. Now it has 32, four- and five-star and still building, not to mention "Petra Burger" joints and T-shirt shops offering 25 per cent discounts in Hebrew. Land values have soared from about £2,000 an acre to £200,000. The town's 3,500 houses are being painted pink by order of Queen Noor.

"In the summer," said a local guide, Mahmoud, a bedouin with a masters degree in electrical engineering, "the people here used to take their goats and tents into the hills and become nomads again. This year they're all working in tourism."

Dean Burgon, an obscure 19th-century Anglican, hymned Petra as "a rose-red city half as old as time". More prosaically, Mahmoud counts 15 different coloured stripes, traces of untapped minerals, in the sandstone caves and cliffs. Edward Lear's travelling cook described it as a place "where everything is chocolate, ham, curry powder and salmon". A British archaeologist, Crystal Bennett, chided him for leaving out the vanilla ice cream and blueberries.

You can travel to the site quite simply — by bus or hired car from Amman (125 miles down the Desert Highway) or Aqaba (75 miles). There are also day trips

from Aqaba's twin Israeli Red Sea resort of Eilat. Yet Petra itself remains a challenge.

Vehicles are banned. From the government tourism centre, you ride a horse, walk or take a buggy through a dark, dry, narrowing ravine that rears to 200ft on either side, then opens with a shock of revelation on the sun-drenched pink facade of the "Treasury", 135ft high by 75ft wide, with its exquisitely carved pillars and pediments, domes, decapitated gods and eagles. "This is the way every city should greet its visitors," marvelled an architect member of our party.

To the west, the Treasury plaza broadens into a stone-strewn valley with more temples cut in the walls on either side — all façades, with square, rain-

bow-striped caves hollowed out behind them. The Nabatean merchants built to impress, but lived more modestly.

The Romans, who followed them, added an amphitheatre and a paved and pillared road, the Byzantines a monastery. King Hussein's contribution, a scatter of coffee shops and at least one public lavatory — housed inside a cave with water mysteriously on tap — manages not to intrude.

Petra is built on scale which absorbs the multitude of visitors exploring on foot in the desiccating heat. From the Nabatean "High Place", 900 steps up the mountainside, their figures appear tiny, Lilliputian. Two thousand years after it was hewn from the cliff-face, Petra still dwarfs the modern world.

IN BRIEF

Bahrain opposition says protester was shot
Manama — Bahrain's main opposition group said that a man shot by masked security officers during protests had died of his wounds. The development could fuel anti-government feeling in the Gulf island-state. The opposition said Fadil Abbas Machoon, 25, was shot and taken away by security men on Friday night at the Shiite Muslim village of Karzakkan, about 15 miles from the capital Manama. AP

Romanians feel surrounded by rats
Bucharest — Rats outnumber people in Bucharest by 10-to-one but they are way behind cockroaches at 200-to-one and mosquitoes at 100-to-one, according to statistics in an environmental magazine. The numbers reported have made 2.3 million Bucharest residents fearful of stray dogs, put at one per 10 people. Reuter

Father of the Exocet missile dies at 87
Paris — A retired five-star General, Jean Crepin, a pioneer in the development of Franco-German weapons and a "father" of the famed Exocet missile died at the weekend, aged 87. Reuter

Chirac rolls out welcome mat for Hassan
Paris — France rolled out the red carpet for King Hassan of Morocco. President Jacques Chirac welcomed the monarch at Orly airport with full military honours at the start of a two-day state visit during which Hassan will become only the third foreign leader to address France's National Assembly. Reuter

Iran's smokers guarded from persecution
Tehran — Iran's parliament on Sunday withdrew a law it passed banning smoking in public places because of opposition from the Guardian Council, which vets parliament decisions before they take effect. It ruled the law was unconstitutional. Reuter

Latvian coalition frays at the edges
Riga — The first crack appeared in Latvia's unwieldy coalition, when Prime Minister Andris Silele sacked his farm minister, Albert Kauls, a former far-right Communist. Reuter

Americans confer over illegal immigrants
Mexico City — Mexico and the US opened a meeting to extend economic co-operation into the more delicate areas of illegal immigration and drug trafficking. Secretary of State Warren Christopher led the US delegation. Reuter

Pledge to send Bosnians home fuels row
Bonn — Human rights groups and opposition politicians accused interior ministers in Germany's 16 states of shirking responsibility for the fate of 320,000 Bosnian refugees they want to start sending home in July. The state ministers decided Germany would start repatriating refugees from 1 July. Reuter

Murdoch's screen ambition contested
Sydney — Rupert Murdoch's screen ambitions contested Sydney — Rupert Murdoch won government approval to open a \$60m 20th Century Fox studio at Sydney's historic showground site, but local residents vowed to fight the decision. Reuter

Nato and WEU agree to swap secrets
Brussels — Nato and the Western European Union, its European arm, exchanged an accord to help the Europeans play a bigger role in their own defence. The agreement gives the WEU access to classified documents and communications codes. Reuter

Turks' search for hotel ends in hot water
Dnepropetrovsk — Two Turkish businessmen were detained in Ukraine for causing a disturbance and "accosting young women," after getting lost on the subway. They did not speak Ukrainian or Russian, and began approaching passersby for help, showing handwritten signs which they thought indicated the name of their hotel and the nearest subway station. They had carefully copied down the letters from signs, but failed to understand them. One said: "Sorry, no vacancies," and the other said: "Entrance." AP

Colby's body is found

The body of William Colby, the former CIA director who vanished nine days ago, was found yesterday on a marshy riverbank in Rock Point, Maryland, writes John Carlin.

Mr Colby, 76, who ran the CIA's covert operations in Vietnam and was CIA director from

1973 to 1976, disappeared after going canoeing near his family holiday home. The canoe was found overturned.

Police said they did not suspect any crime. It was thought Mr Colby was alive when he fell into the water but suffered hypothermia and drowned.

For the best of healthcare.
FREEPHONE QUOTING REF AD 0229
0800 560 560
from
Health Legal & General

PAY LESS for what you say

London to Australia ONLY 27p! per minute	London to USA ONLY 14p! per minute
London to India ONLY 66p! per minute	about 40% less

- Worldcall costs about 40% less than BT for international calls.
- Call anytime, to anywhere in the world
- Pay for what you say, with per second billing to most countries.
- Enjoy high quality digital connections from your home or business.
- It's simple — just dial Worldcall first.

All major credit cards accepted.

Call 0181 900 9990
pay less say more

Worldcall

This instant In a flash Before
your very eyes
PRONTO

(Get the feeling we'll give you a quick answer on a Barclayloan?)

When you apply for a Barclayloan, should you have to hang around for an answer?

For a Barclayloan you just go to any Barclays branch and have a chat with one of our friendly bankers. He or she will ask a few (and we mean just a few) questions about you

— and then give you our answer on the spot.

If you're a Barclays customer, you don't even have to leave home: just call us on 0500 200 250 for a loan over the phone.

It's just one more reason why more people choose a Barclayloan than any other. So give next try, Pronto.

BARCLAYS

Quote reference 01.
14.9% APR — see application form for details. Typical example: £1,000 loan repayable by 48 monthly payments of £205.02 with a total interest payable of £5,041.76.
Barclayloan is a service provided by Barclays Bank plc. A full range of services is available from your local branch. Details of services and charges are available on request. To apply for a Barclayloan you must be 18 or over, a UK resident, and have a regular income. Barclayloans are subject to credit checks. Barclayloans are not available to customers of Barclays Bank plc who are subject to a credit restriction. Barclayloans are not available to customers of Barclays Bank plc who are subject to a credit restriction.

مكتبة الصلح

Shirley on the scaffold

The District Auditor's final verdict on Westminster council may rob John Major of his majority. David Walker reports

The District Auditor's axe is poised. At last – after having announced his judgement on Westminster council in January 1994 and then having gone back and considered it all once again – John Magill has Shirley Porter and colleagues on the scaffold. Come Thursday, hearing last-minute judicial intervention, her head looks likely to fall under a multi-million pound surcharge and disqualification.

At this low ebb in Tory fortunes, the Westminster council scandal hands another hefty piece of ammunition to Labour. The auditor's conclusions will be matched with those of Sir Richard Scott's Iraq report. Put crudely, it's a message that says the Tories cannot be trusted with power. More subtly – since both Scott and Magill were called in to tidy up after that late Eighties period of Tory hegemony when arrogant politicians gave little thought to the niceties of proper procedure – the lesson is that the more politicians feel they walk on water, the more dangerous they get.

The Westminster affair is also to do with amateurism and political paranoia. Lady Porter was always an exotic. She came late to politics and never really understood, let alone sympathised with, the local democratic system. Her fate confirms, perhaps unhappily, that modern British politics is a place for specialists alone.

As a local authority, the City of Westminster has a specific character, from which one should not generalise too far. It is the only council to have a permanent Security Service liaison. (Westminster's permission is needed to allow M15 to check manholes on the routes around Buckingham Palace.) Letting City Hall in Victoria fall into Labour hands seemed akin to giving away the Crown Jewels.

Lady Porter was genuinely anxious prior to the 1992 London borough election; her worry about Labour taking over precipitated (says the auditor) the illegal policy of weeding out those who rented council property and the homeless.

To understand why, it has to be remembered that she came into politics when London Labour was at its most extreme. Though Westminster Labour has always been a mixed and rather moderate bunch, what she saw on looking at the Opposition benches was the potential triumph of Ken Livingstone.

Lady Porter, rich as she is, well-lavished as she is, can defend her own reputation. The voters of Paddington, Mayfair and Fimbo will have the chance in 1998 to vote out those of whom they disapprove – though on past form Tory dominance in Westminster will continue. Is it all just another PR disaster for

Brian Mawhinney and crew to try to sweep up?

There is more to Westminster than that. The Opposition will tout Tory ineptitude, yes, but there are bigger issues. For a party committed to cutting government and reducing its power, what Westminster exposes is the extent of the Tories' failure to master the mechanics of government (and there is a warning there for Labour). Lady Porter has been skewered not by socialist legislation or some Labour plot, but a system created and strengthened by Conservative ministers. If she falls, it will be as a martyr to the Tory state.

Take the bespectacled figure of John Magill, now Lady Porter's nemesis. District Auditors were never meant to prosecute Tory councillors. The District Audit Service was established by Neville Chamberlain in the 1920s to ensure that cloth-capped Labour councillors did not spend too much ratepayers' money. They were intended to do what Chris Woodhead hopes HM Inspectors of Schools will do – swoop down and wield the rod.

By and large that is what the auditors did. It was the District Auditor who killed municipal socialism – and inadvertently helped to make the world safe for new Labour – by surcharging and disqualifying Ted Knight in Lambeth and Derek Hatton in Liverpool.

It was the Conservatives who created the Audit Commission under the auspices of which the auditors work – to tighten up procedures. And to bring in the private sector. Imagine: John Magill is only an auditor on contract; he works in the City for Ernst & Young, a company grown fat during the Tory years.

According to the Tory script, auditors were needed for Camden and Southwark and Labour big spenders. As for Tory councils, auditors would check the books for trivial hand-in-the-till corruption, then sign off. But when Labour objected to Westminster's annual accounts, John Magill – whatever his conservative accountant's instincts may have said – had no option but to investigate in depth.

What he discovered required him to make a powerful judgement on the motives that elected politicians bring to their committees and cabinets. To understand what he has done in Westminster, you would have to imagine the National Audit Office arraigning Lady Thatcher for going ahead with privatisation on the grounds that it would create a predisposition on the part of voters to vote Tory.

To her horror, Lady Porter has been put in the dock for wanting,



Dame Shirley Porter: if she falls, it will be as a martyr to the Tory state

physically, to enforce the Tory position in Westminster. In the late Eighties, the clique running Westminster decided, according to the auditor's provisional report, to do some social engineering, using the borough's housing stock. In principle, it is what untwined Labour councillors have sought to do, more or less consciously, by building council estates in traditionally Tory areas. The Cabinet archives for the early Fifties show that Harold Macmillan had similar thoughts in trying to steer the location of his massive housing programme.

In Westminster, the Porter group sought to get rid of renters and bring in owners. Her sale of council housing was

perfectly legal. The problem is not really even the impact of the designated sales policy for Westminster's homeless, denied access to the flats being sold off and forced (at Westminster's expense) into short-run accommodation.

The auditor has found – provisionally, at least, until Thursday – that the council designated sales policy was contrary to law because it was designed with party advantage in mind. If you ask who made that law, the answer is the Conservatives have authored more than 100 pieces of local government legislation during the past 17 years.

Thursday is not by any

means the end of the road for Lady Porter and colleagues. All the auditor is doing is making his final judgement: he then has to go to court to get a judge to make an order of surcharge and disqualification. Magill vs Porter could run and run.

It will run on into the philosophy books as well as the legal texts. Once upon a time, the Tories' intellectual pin-up was Fritz von Hayek, who wrote persuasively about the need to limit government – he was, he never tired of telling them, a liberal, never a conservative. The Austrian would have a problem with Westminster. On the one hand, he would find appealing the idea

of legal restraints on what politicians can do. On the other, the fact that those restraints have been "discovered" after the event by a bureaucrat (even a private-sector bureaucrat on contract) would alarm him.

Magill has come up with a doctrine that at its starkest says: thou shalt not pursue party advantage in government. It is one that would probably win a hearty public endorsement even if – or perhaps because – taken to its logical conclusion it spells the end of party politics. Many would welcome that result in the town and county halls, but what would it entail for British democracy if applied to Parliament?

Key players in the Westminster affair

Shirley Porter

Heiress to the fortune of her father, Tesco founder Jack Cohen. She became Leader of Westminster Council in 1983 and ruled with determination and zeal until 1991. Always a controversial figure, she gained notoriety after selling the city's cemeteries for 5p each. She has also been criticised after it was revealed that the council housed homeless families in asbestos-riddled tower blocks. The Barrat report found earlier this year that the council had known that the blocks were laden with asbestos since 1982. It spoke of "improper objectives and ... known asbestos

risks being overridden". She responded from her home in the United States that she felt the report "utterly disproved the wild and monstrous allegation made by the Labour Party that homeless people were deliberately put at risk".

But it is this week's Magill report which contains the most serious allegations: that her council planned the sale of council houses in marginal wards to win the 1990 council elections at an estimated cost to the taxpayer of £21m.

She now lives mainly in Israel, though she has homes in Florida and London.

Margaret Thatcher

Alleged to have been informed of the on-going "homes for votes" plan while Westminster Tories were considering it in 1986. Lady Porter wrote to her: "Unless something can be done, it will be very difficult for us to keep Westminster Conservative".

Barry Legge

Then Lady Porter's chief whip, now a Conservative MP and a member of the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee. If he is surcharged by the auditor, he might become bankrupt and be forced to resign as an MP, robbing the Government of its majority of one.

David Weekes

Alleged to have been the third member of a council triumvirate involving Porter and Legge which, the provisional Magill report suggested, masterminded the alleged "homes for votes" scheme. Like Dame Shirley and Mr Legge, he faces the possibility of being surcharged as a result.

John Magill

A senior partner at the top City accountants Ernst & Young. Seconded from the private sector to work as District Auditor. His provisional report in 1994 accused Westminster Council of "gerrymandering" and described council policy as "disgraceful, improper and unlawful".

Ben Summers

DIARY

A good line in beef, but where's the joke?

How not to handle the beef crisis. A series of brief, easy-to-follow lessons by Lord Lucas, the Government's spokesman in the House of Lords, drawing on his personal experience at a Back British Beef luncheon in Ashford, Kent, hosted by the National Farmers' Union and attended by representatives from every sector of the beef industry.

1. Tell the assembled slaughterers, farmers, renderers and auctioneers – all completely mystified as to how the destruction of cattle over 30 months old is going to work, two days into the

scheme – that you know they are confused, but it's "hard cheese, the most important thing is that the scheme is up and running", even if only on paper.

2. Point out that Ashford has had three cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human equivalent of BSE. And how terrible it is, just as the 270 guests are tucking into their £16-a-head rib of beef.

3. When joking that they have been expecting Lord Lucas, by misreading the "n" at the end of his name for an "s", remark: "There's someone who knew a thing or two about culling cows."

4. Expect to get a laugh. (It is possible you might be disappointed on 3.)

Mad cows and English theatre

Mad cow disease does have one virtue. It can be used as the scapegoat for anything. Rupert Rhymes, chief executive of the Society of London Theatres, moans in the *Stage* newspaper under the front-page headline "BSE blamed for West End slump": "We and other organisations are readdressing our projections for the number of tourists coming in this year. Terrorism is a factor in the short-term and so are health scares, which are affecting people from mainland Europe. With BSE, they are wondering whether it is safe to eat British food." And there was I, unschooled in the complexities of the tourist and meat trades, thinking there just weren't many good shows on at the moment.

Drummer gags. You can't beat 'em

The viola players may be the joke section of the symphony orchestra, as I observed yesterday. But I see the world of rock music has its own target, the drummers. The June edition of *Q Magazine* supplies the top 10 drummer jokes. Example: What's the last thing a drummer says in a band? "Hey guys, why don't we try one of my songs?" In the main, though, it seems to be poor old Ginger Baker (above), once of the supergroup Cream, who has become the fall guy: What is the difference between a chiroprapist and Ginger Baker? A chiroprapist bucks up your feet. Ginger Baker fans should write to *Q Magazine* direct.

Eagle Eye



Secret desires of Labour women

There are some odd secret fantasies to be found in today's issue of *She* magazine, where celebrities say which film roles they hanker after. Anthea Turner says: "I would love to have starred in *When Harry Met Sally* because I, too, like making a scene in restaurants." This would be impossible, of course, as that was the scene of the fake orgasm, and there is nothing fake about Miss Turner. More believable are the secret desires of two Labour women. Clare Short chooses Jo, the heroine of *Little Women* – there were no men in the house to shut her up when she spoke out of turn. And Glensia Kinnock chooses *Thelma* (Cecilia Davis, above left) from *Kinnock Thelma and Louise* because "she proved how much inner strength the film *Thelma and Louise* has." The result, I recall, was a brief life of crime followed by suicide. Most encouraging.

How to profit from the coming Labour Government

Whether or not you vote Labour yourself, it is not unpatriotic to look after your family's interests

All the signs indicate that the next Government will be Labour. And when they come to government spending, someone will have to pay. Will it be you?

You may not think of yourself as rich. But you've worked hard to possess what you do... and if your children are young you may expect to provide them with an education of your choice.

But a government that leans to the left may not see things your way. Your savings will be "wealth" ... your children's education will be seen as a "privilege". Your income could mark you out for high taxation. Your freedom to move your money overseas may be restricted. Tax loopholes will be closed. What's more, the value of the pound in your pocket, your pension and any investments will all be affected by how the rest of the world views Labour and its actions.

Will you get squeezed "until the pips squeak" – or will you take counter-measures?

A team of City analysts, tax lawyers and accountants has devised an Action Plan Report that tells you how to plan ahead and what steps you must take now to protect your standard of living.

The report even demonstrates that better than merely surviving a Labour government, you can even take advantage of the market and turn other people's financial fears into your profit!

Why you must act quickly

Depending on your circumstances, the Action Plan Report will indicate the measures you can take quite legally as a British citizen living in the UK. What you choose to do will depend on you. But not when you choose to do it. You need to assess the situation and get started immediately.

If you wait until our warnings become reality, you run the risk of trying to sell in a market crowded with sellers... whether it's property, shares, or pound notes. If you wait until the barriers to free movement of your capital have been erected you will find that the market has already adjusted to tomorrow's new rules.

How will these threats affect you?

The Report analyses the likelihood of these government policies... how they could affect you... and what you can do in advance to protect yourself:

- Devaluation of the £
- Reintroduction of exchange controls
- New tax thresholds and the wealth tax
- Price freezes and wage freezes
- Directing pension funds and insurance investments into state ventures
- Boosting of public spending

- Attacks on perks
- Import controls and price controls
- Redirection of bank credit

When, where and how to invest
What does history tell us? What can you learn from recent changes of government in other countries? What are the smart things to do before a "bear market"?

Investing overseas
Which countries are the best bet? And what do you invest in? What are the advantages – and the legalities – of an offshore bank account? Does it make sense to buy overseas property? It's all in the Action Plan Report.

Are "Alternative" investments a good alternative?
What about gold, antiques and other collectibles? The gains – and losses – can be spectacular. Follow our advice on how to avoid getting sucked into the latter stages of a fashion fad.

The roof over your head
You must take a hard look at the UK property market. What will happen to house values and prices if Labour tackles mortgage relief? Valuable tips on how to review your property "exposure".

Turn the taxman into a friend
Why many executives are opting for self-employed status. How to exploit loopholes in tax law. What you need to know about Capital Gains Tax and Inheritance tax. How to use Trusts to safeguard your family's future.

Will pay for itself many times at only £23.50
Our Action Plan Report is written in plain English and has been thoroughly checked to prevent you ever being prosecuted for any illegal financial actions. It is available only by mail from the address below – it is not available in any bookshops and will not be distributed to public libraries. The price is £23.50 plus £1.50 p&hp. You are, of course, covered by a full Money-Back Guarantee. If you are not convinced that its advice is valuable and highly practical, simply return it within 14 days for a full refund.

Whether or not you vote Labour yourself, it is surely not unpatriotic to look after your family's interests. Ignore the message of our Action Plan Report and you risk doing your family a grave disservice.

Ordering is straightforward. Send a written order with your £23 cheque payable to "Chartsearch Ltd" at this address: Action Plan, Dept. A, Chartsearch Ltd, 28 Charles St, London W1H 6HT. To pay by credit card please provide card type, number, and expiry date.

For the best healthcare
0 56056
Legal
Care

Y LESS
what you say
27p!
66p!

10181 900 9999
Worldcall

I spy with very good reason

Morland cigarettes have long disappeared, Aston Martin belongs to foreigners, but James Bond is still out there doing his stuff, and sometimes – as yesterday – getting caught. Shaken, but not stirred, some of Britain's finest have been ordered out of Moscow following the arrest of a Russian who was allegedly working for MI6.

Nobody will confirm that any of the diplomats stepping out to the British Airways plane at Sheremetyevo are operatives of the Secret Intelligence Service, of course; nor will Moscow confirm, when Britain responds (as it surely will), that the people climbing aboard Aeroflot at Heathrow are spies. But at least some of them probably will be.

This may all seem like the most colossal waste of time, money and effort. We send out our chaps (and, increasingly, chapesses), they send out theirs, both spend valuable hours opening each others' mail, then everybody gets thrown out of the country and we start all over again.

Why spy? With all the information that is so readily available, with the end of the Cold War, with the retreat from empire, why bother with all this expensive nonsense? The answer is that it is not nonsense. If anything, more should have been spent on intelligence over the past decade. It might have helped in the Gulf, in the Falklands and in Russia itself had we understood a little more of what was going on in advance.

But why spy on Russia? Because it still possesses a prodigious military capacity, and uses it in ways that concern Britain (such as its activities in Azerbaijan, where BP has extensive interests). It still has the ability to spring surprises, by threatening to pull out of important arms control treaties, for instance. Its relations with other nations, in particular China and some Middle Eastern countries, are a

matter of concern. Russia is also the source of a large amount of organized crime and money laundering. And Russia, as we have been told by MI6's friends in MI5, spies on us (so we spy on them, and so on).

But there is more to this latest incident than the usual "I spy a spy" tango. We are no longer on the terrace of the Casino Royale; this is the post-Cold War world. The expulsions have been handled in an unusually high-profile way, which means that Moscow is making a heavy-handed point to foreign intelligence agencies and governments: don't mess with us. The Russians are also making a point to their own internal agencies; that good relations with the West don't preclude the smack of firm government, on occasion. And it is also making a point to Russian voters, ahead of next month's election: this is a regime that is prepared to get tough with those rascally foreigners.

The general drift in Russian attitudes over the past two years has been to reassert the nation's place, opposing Nato expansion, for instance, and playing an increasingly tough game in diplomatic negotiations. Since Yevgeny Primakov took over as Foreign Minister – he was formerly head of the foreign intelligence service – the intelligence agencies in Russia have got something of a new lease of life. Mr Primakov has also started to redirect foreign policy, carving out a new and more assertive role for Russia in the Middle East and Asia.

As the elections approach, and as Russia pulls itself out of the post-Soviet malaise that has bedevilled any coherent policy, that assertive trend is likely to strengthen. We have good reason to worry about Russia. It follows that this, after all, a good time to be gleaming the best intelligence we can find on its immediate future.

MPs need cutting down to size

It has been a long time since our ancient democracy had a lesson to learn from Spain's recently revived version, but that day has come. Jose Maria Aznar, the country's new Prime Minister, has started with the kind of downsizing that many a corporate high-flier would be proud to emblazon on his fuselage. Indeed, Senor Aznar has started at the very top – by downsizing his cabinet to a mere 14 members.

Britain's cabinet has 22 members, all of whom sit down once a week around that grand table in Number 10, or more often in a crisis. Many serve an obvious purpose – Home Secretary, Foreign Secretary, Chancellor, etc. But most of the others are really like the tail end of an international football squad, only really needed when the injury list grows too long. In reality, fewer than 10 cabinet ministers actually make the big decisions – often as few as half a dozen.

And that team is bolstered by a further 46 ministers of state, mini-ministers and the like, all of whom inhabit tidy little burrows in the Whitehall warren. Over the past decade or so, those ministers have done much to cut down the bureaucrats who serve them, having some off into arm's-length agencies and cutting others out altogether. But has the number of ministers gone down in similar proportion? Not a bit.

The truth is, most of the smaller Whitehall bag-carriers have very little to do, apart from flatter and favour their departmental boss in the hope of subsequent advancement. Supposedly, they are in training, or under trial, for one of the big jobs. In reality, however, many of them are having their support bought in return for the odd trip in a ministerial car, and the dubious glamour and kudos of belonging to HMG. Every vote that the Prime Minister manages to lock up on his front benches, and in the whip's office, the fewer he has to worry about keeping on side when things get tough.

It seems like a persuasive argument, until you consider the old advice given by one junior minister to those who followed him, to the effect that there were only two reasons for being a junior minister: one was to give you a handhold on the greasy pole; the other was to find a good excuse to resign spectacularly, and so make your name for the next government.

So there is precious little case for having so many ministers, apart from the fact that you need a good proportion of your side in the Government. Well, there is an easy answer to that: cut the number of MPs. Here is a classic case of modern streamlining. Cut the executive layer and you may soon find you do not need so many down below. We could live with, say, 400 to 500 MPs (against the present 650) and still have plenty of voices in Parliament. And there is an incentive: we may even be able to afford to pay and staff MPs' offices better if we have fewer of them. It is time Parliament started cutting itself down to size.

Appliance of science to stripy bow ties

Ever since Melvyn Bragg started being interested in science and having lots of scientists on his *Start the Week* show, lots of ordinary people have started being interested in science and asking scientific questions that they have never asked before, such as "Why are there so many scientists on *Start the Week* and, statistically speaking, is it against the odds to have so many, especially geneticists, on the programme?"

The trouble is that there is nowhere the ordinary person can turn to in order to get the answer to this sort of scientific question, as you will know if you have ever tried ringing up the *Start the Week* office, which is why I have today hired Dr Vernon Goldtooth, professor of science and media studies at Milton Keynes University, to answer all your science-oriented queries. Take it away, Vern!

Every spring the earth is laden with blossom from countless cherry trees, not to mention those strange sickly green-yellow flowers from the springtime sycamore tree. Every autumn the earth is laden with the falling leaves, whirling down dead and discarded by the first fierce winds of numb-fingered November. What I want to know is: Is the earth heavier in spring and autumn because of all this deposited stuff from trees?

Dr Vernon Goldtooth writes: What principles every time he had a discussion, we would never get anywhere. All right, then – if matter cannot be created or destroyed, can ideas be created or destroyed?

Dr Vernon Goldtooth writes: In what way?

Well, in the way that ideas become fashionable for a few years and are then exploded. Are they literally exploded? Are they destroyed? Fashion ideas, for example.

Dr Vernon Goldtooth writes: Ah, no – fashion ideas are never destroyed, they always come back again. However ridiculous they seem at the time, whether flared jeans, black berets, odd-coloured socks, stripy bow ties or T-shirts saying "Che Guevara". They always come round again.

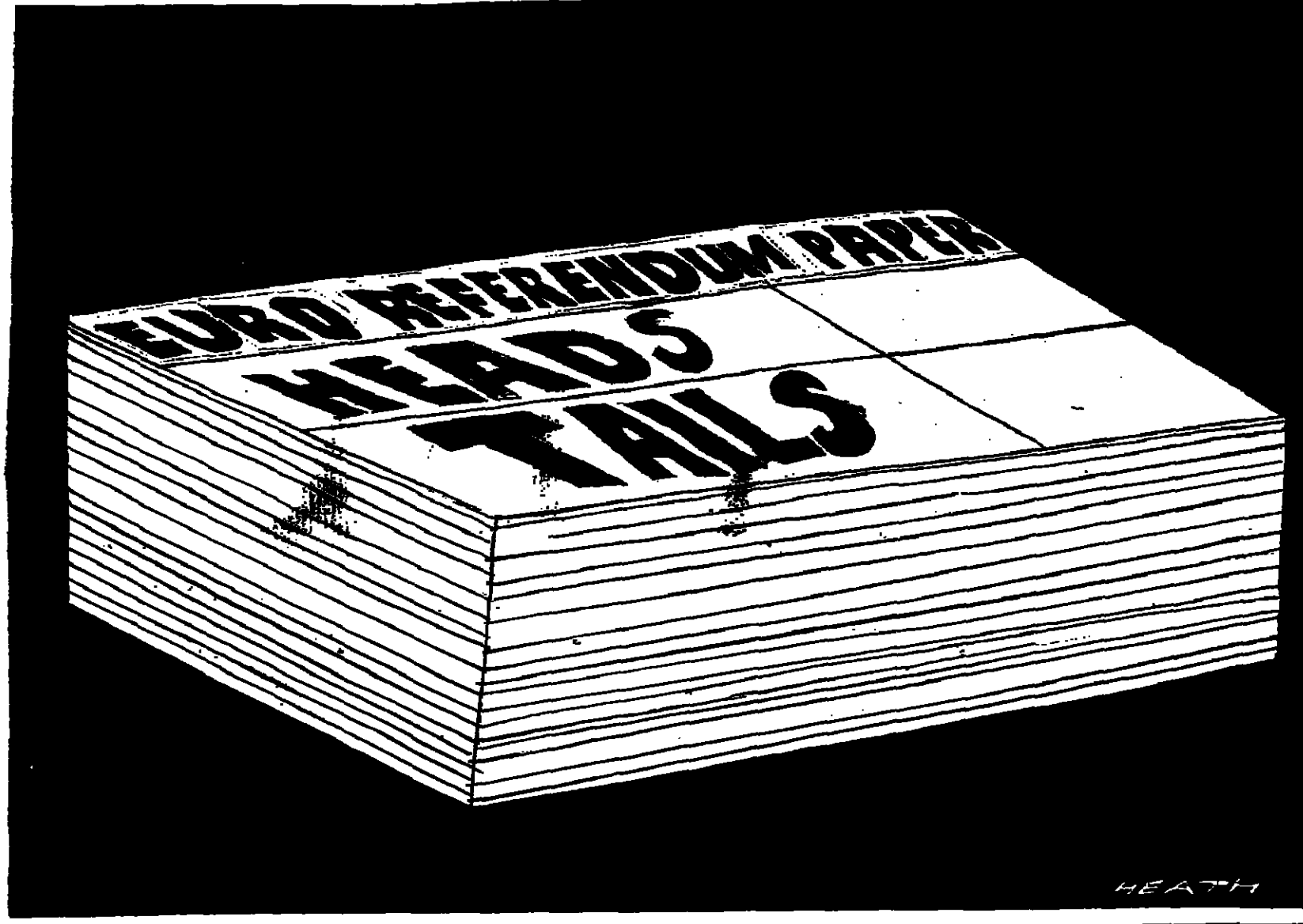
What about ideas discussed on *The Moral Maze* on Radio 4? Aren't they destroyed during the discussion? Or at least left very badly damaged?

Dr Vernon Goldtooth writes: Ah, but *The Moral Maze* is not a programme about ideas. It is a soap opera about four or five people who can't stand each other shut up in a room together. The interest lies in seeing who gets on whose nerves. The other day I came home and my wife said: "You should have heard *The Moral Maze* today – Martin Bell, who was one of the witnesses, rounded furiously on Dr David Starkey, and Starkey hardly spoke again in the rest of the programme!" I asked her what they were arguing about, but she could hardly remember the ideas involved – what had struck her was the personal relationship. You see? We only think it is a discussion programme because it has a name like *The Moral Maze*. Name-changing changes the nature of the object.

I don't think I quite understand.

Dr Vernon Goldtooth writes: Oh, it happens all the time. Sinn Fein, for example, have always denied any connection with the IRA, which rather strains credulity, so the Ulster Unionists rather wittily have recently taken to referring to Sinn Fein as "Sinn Fein/IRA" as if there were no difference. Similarly, John Prescott has recently started referring to Dr Brian Mawhinney as MISTER Mawhinney, as if Mawhinney were not a real doctor, which indeed he isn't, any more than Mr Ian Paisley is. It may be only a coincidence, but the fortunes of both Sinn Fein and Brian Mawhinney have gone down since then.

Got any questions you would like half-answered? Then send them in to Dr Vernon Goldtooth! And don't forget – Dr Vernon Goldtooth would VERY much like to be invited on to *Start the Week*.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Downshifting benefits workers as well as bosses

Sir: In his article "Are you ready to downshift?" (3 May), Stephen Bevan misses the opportunity to give a clear, timely and important message to corporate leaders and concerned employees.

He suggests that downshifting may be regarded sceptically as being driven by business imperatives rather than the desires of the workforce.

In my professional capacity, as an expert in corporate change, I hear an increasing demand, particularly in the banking sector, for more reasonable working hours and an end of needing to stay late, often without justification, for fear of falling victim to "the first one seen to leave will be the first one asked to leave".

Employers have focused for too long simply on getting more out of their people, rather than more out of the "man hours" they are paying for. Downshifting is an option worth serious consideration, for at present many employers do not feel valued, their self-esteem is damaged and inevitably their performance has suffered.

The article rightly stresses the importance of developing self-esteem and psychological well-being, along with a sense of trust and security.

I firmly believe that business needs, and workforce preferences, can both be well served by using downshifting to create a flexible and committed workforce.

JEREMY GILYN
The Self-Esteem Network,
London, SW6

Sir: A survey from the Federation of Small Businesses highlights the disturbing phenomenon of the "jobless recovery". More than 82 per cent of small firms plan to create no new jobs in the next three months, in spite of apparent economic recovery.

Many employers claim that increased deregulation and flexibility enable them to hire people more easily. Yet the economic sector which is supposed to provide significant employment growth tells us not to expect any new jobs. Although official unemployment figures have shown a fall over the past few years, that trend may be on the turn.

Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, has said Britain is forging ahead in job creation "because the right conditions exist for companies to flourish". A genuine recovery has to include job creation. Companies cannot truly "flourish" in a society where increasing numbers of people are in under-protected, insecure work or have no prospect of employment at all.

JO GARDINER
The Industrial Society
London W1

Red beef is safe to eat

Sir: This nightmare of pan about beef and the resultant policy (report, 2 May) which we not get rid of BSE is caused by confusion due to the use of the word "beef" in all official proclamations.

"Beef" includes meat produced on the one hand and the meat on the other. It is vital important to understand that the red meat of BSE-infected cattle has never transmitted the disease in any of the extensive experiments carried out over 15 years, whereas the brains and cords ("specified offal") – which still go into meat pies, pâtés, tinned items and stock cubes – have.

This, after all, has been our experience over the centuries with the original disease in sheep – scrapie: we have eaten scrapie-infected red meat with impunity because we were never forced willy-nilly to eat sheep's brains. Unlike cattle brains they were never removed from the skull to be added to our "meat products".

The assumption that muscle tissue must be infected since it contains nerves is neither supported by facts nor is it in keeping with other "slow virus" diseases of the central nervous system in which the disease process stops short at the surface of the spinal cord and never involves the peripheral nerves.

In other words, we could live with BSE, as we have done with scrapie for centuries, as long as we are not forced to swallow infected material in meat products. Our message to the world should be: "The red meat of British cattle is safe."

H C GRANT FRCP
Neuropathologist
Edinburgh

Sir: Which is less justifiable, the ritual slaughter of sheep for religious reasons (report, 29 April), the carcasses being eaten, or the slaughter of tens of thousands of cows for commercial reasons, the carcasses being incinerated?

Societies truly compassionate towards animals would not so readily accept the condemnation of sheep slaughter, which at least conforms to deeply held convictions, while accepting the proposed massacre of healthy cows on the basis of commercial pressure but without scientific evidence about health hazards.

A compassionate society would not accept that the only reason for a cow to live is to yield a profit.

RAJ BHOPAL
Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health
The Medical School
University of Newcastle
upon Tyne

Tender price is not everything

Sir: Paul Gosling ("The cheaper, the better", 1 May) reported Sir Paul Beresford's and the Department of the Environment's intentions concerning the present compulsory competitive tendering (CCT) regime.

If the DoE [takes a] decisive step to push councils to award more out-of-house work by shifting the emphasis from quality to price, this will severely compromise the procurement of quality professional services where precise tender specifications cannot be prepared and the method of delivery is of paramount importance to ensuring quality of public service.

But Sir Paul, as Environment Minister, should already know just how important quality is. His department produced that excellent discussion document *Quality in Town and Country*, promoted enthusiastically at seminars attended by his Secretary of State, John Gummer. Let us hope that the DoE adopts compatible and integrated policies on the environment and associated professional services procurement so that we can really celebrate the millennium.

DAVID YORKE
Chairman
Royal Institute of British Architects, Northwest Region
Knutsford, Cheshire

Why give Shakespeare a licence to shock?

Sir: I must take issue with Polly Toynbee ("Old enough for the bloody Bard", 30 April). Why should Shakespeare be placed in some special category over and above all other playwrights, novelists and scriptwriters whose work finds its way into film? I am quite sure that the British Board of Film Classification takes artistic merit into account and that it was borne in mind in awarding *Richard III* a 15 certificate. A film featuring graphic violence and explicit oral sex (even off camera) would not normally be anything other than an 18.

A director has a choice as to how he or she will portray the violence and sex that a script demands. They can be as unnecessary in an adaptation of a classic play as of a blockbuster – look at Jarman's *Edward II*. The name of Shakespeare or Marlowe or Ian McKellen cannot somehow magic away the harmful effects (if any) of on-screen violence.

Polly Toynbee's article does help expose the absurdities of the current system. The fact that a 16-year-old can legally have real sex

Zulu boy a victim of 'apartheid'

Sir: The forcible separation of a Zulu child from the only family he knows and loves ("My Zulu boy was legally abducted", 6 May), presents us with the incoherence of apartheid now being officially applied in Britain after having been dismantled in South Africa.

Ever ready to level the charge of hypocrisy at Britain, the hard-line right wing of Afrikaner nationalism can be expected to make full use of the signal this outrage transmits to Africa and the world.

P S KELLETT
Kinlochewe,
Ross and Cromarty

Fragile revival in Bosnia

Sir: I have just returned from a visit to Bosnia, where Feed The Children has been operating throughout the war and is still working hard.

There are visible achievements in Bosnia. Thanks to I-For, the armies have been separated and are in their barracks, and there are signs of a gradual return to normal life. It is now possible to travel freely the length and breadth of the country, as I have just done. With the coming of spring, people are busy digging, ploughing and sowing crops, and there is much house-repairing going on.

But an immense amount remains to be tackled. Ethnic hatreds persist. The armies are still there. Factories are in ruins, minefields are everywhere. Many thousands, not least children, are living in the most miserable conditions.

The wounds need time to heal. It would be tragic if all that has been achieved by Dayton and I-For, which is costing millions, were to be thrown away through a premature slackening of international concern. A particular focus must be the restoration of schools and kindergartens, many of which have been damaged, often destroyed. Success would help to produce the "peace dividend" which is badly needed.

MARTIN EWANS
Chairman
Feed the Children
Reading, Berkshire

Tax law and pension funds

Sir: Following the article "NAFF chief proposes to end tax-free nest eggs" (3 May), I wish to clarify NAPP's position in regard to changes in the tax treatment of retirement lump sums and investment income. In most UK schemes, the current taxation system provides advantage for the scheme members at the point of retirement whereas an improvement in the tax treatment of investment income would usually pass on to the employer. That could be inequitable.

The current regime is entirely defensible because schemes invest heavily in UK equities and the current combination of ACT and mainstream corporation tax, where both are payable, results in an effective tax rate of 16.66 per cent on distributable earnings. Even before the iniquitous change in 1993, dropping ACT to 20 per cent, the effective rate of tax was 11.11 per cent. It is wrong to claim that pension funds are truly tax-free. In essence we pay tax on part of our investment income and it is therefore entirely justifiable that part of our benefits are tax-free. NAPP has not proposed any changes to this structure, nor does it intend to.

TOM ROSS
Chairman
National Association of Pension Funds Limited
London SW1

Vacuum at the political apex

Sir: It is entirely appropriate that your leading article (3 May) which attacks Michael Howard's judicial abuses is adjacent to the Letters section, which includes comments about the lack of democracy in London and Mohamed al-Fayed's interest in wide-ranging constitutional reform. While the *Independent's* criticism of the Home Secretary is to be applauded, it should place his misdemeanours in the proper context. Calling the Government arrogant misses the point. The question all of us should be asking is, how can they keep getting away with it? The answer, as Mr Fayed has realised, is that there is nothing to prevent them.

Supporters of the monarchy argue that it does not matter that the head of state is unelected because he/she does not have any power. There is a political vacuum at the apex of our democracy. The only check on government power is the judiciary – itself a self-appointed clique – and supra-national bodies.

Wide-ranging constitutional reform, such as that outlined by Mr Fayed, needs to be implemented as soon as possible.

ANDY WHITE
Belfast

Railway for sale

Sir: You report ("Row over Railtrack's 'lost millions'", 30 April) that Railtrack may need £11bn spent on tunnels and bridge repairs over the next 10 years. Buying shares in Railtrack is a bit like buying a second-hand car off Arthur Daley, except that the scale is more grandiose.

FRANK HOPWOOD
Manchester

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2456; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

change m
beef is
Better Jo
Ruth

comment

No change means no chance for young people

Educational maintenance must be reformed to allow opportunity for all, argues Gordon Brown

There is one clear objective to the review of public expenditure on young people over the age of 16 that the Labour Party has announced. It is to break the vicious cycle where poor educational qualifications breed unemployment, poverty and social division.

In the 1990s, every young person should have a skill and qualification. And they should all have work or training. Making sure every individual has a stake in education and employment demands a national crusade for change in which tough choices will have to be made so that we use our resources efficiently and equitably.

Britain still has one of the poorest records among all our major competitors when it comes to young people staying on in higher education. And we have one of the highest proportions of children leaving school at 16. The latest figures suggest that 30 per cent leave with no qualifications or inadequate grades at GCSE, deprived of the skills a modern economy needs.

The costs of wasting the talents of a lost generation of young people are high. We see them in unemployment, social division, the loss of economic

potential and high youth crime rates in our city centres and housing estates.

Look around London or any major city today. More than 25 per cent of young men under 25 are without a job. Many of them have never worked in their lives. In London, up to 60 per cent of young black men are without work. If we do not act now on behalf of those who have been shut out and excluded, we will face decades of social division – a vicious circle of dole, alienation and social conflict.

The costs of doing nothing are far greater than the cost of taking action. For, at the worst extreme, young people, feeling abandoned and forgotten, drift into crime. One-third of crimes are committed by those under 21. As a nation, we end up spending as much on the costs of crime committed by the under-25s as the Government does on youth training.

The present system is failing. And the people who lose most are the people who are already disadvantaged. Eighty per cent of the sons and daughters of the unskilled still leave school at 16. Some go on to college, but most disappear from full-time education for ever.

So for Peter Lilley and John Major

to make "no change" their rallying cry when they attack me is as offensive as their suggestion that poverty no longer exists. To paraphrase John Redwood, and apply his words to the prospects for thousands of young people, "no change means no chance".

As I said in my John Smith Memorial lecture, meaningful equality of opportunity must be more than some pass-fail event at 16 which defines suc-

cess or failure for ever. Equality of opportunity must mean recurrent, lifelong chances for education and employment – and a clear duty on government to help make this possible.

Old-style equality of opportunity provided a ladder that only a few could climb. A modern definition of equality of opportunity must be a broad highway that people can join throughout their lives. It must mean the continuous creation and re-creation of

educational and employment opportunities for all – second, third and fourth chances to succeed. It cannot mean a young person being denied education after 16 because of poverty.

The status quo is not working. And one reason is our unfair and chaotic system of financial support. Even for those lucky enough to be offered college places after 16, there is an untidy and inequitable patchwork of provision. Some receive grants, some do not. And, whatever the Government claims, child benefit does not persuade sufficient numbers of school pupils to stay on.

This embarrassing patchwork of educational maintenance must be reformed. Maintenance grants can range from £20 a week to 90 pence or nothing at all. Help has little to do with need, more to do with where you live and whether you can afford to stay on anyway.

So we must be bold. It is to persuade more people to stay on at school and achieve greater equality in education that Chris Smith, David Blunkett and I are carrying out our review into the financing of post-16 education – a review agreed by our Economic Policy Commission.

Child benefit will, of course, remain universal for children up to 16 – where it is universal at the moment. But it is not universal for young people from 16 to 18 and never has been. Only half the mothers of 16- to 18-year-olds receive it, and they tend to be from wealthier families. The mother of an unemployed 16-year-old loses it; the mother of an Etonian sixth-former receives £1,500 over three years.

That is why we need change. One option is to upgrade child benefit into a national educational grant for those who need it. Our aim is to make it possible for more to stay on at school or remain in education and ensure that every young person has both a skill and a chance of a job.

Making New Labour's priorities count, I have always said, demands hard choices. Anyone who believes that New Labour is about soft options or easy answers has misunderstood modernisation. And tough choices are needed most of all to solve just about the toughest problem of all – the waste of the talents of a lost generation.

The writer is Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer and Labour MP for Dunfermline East.

It's tough being on top, boys

More men have now complained about sex discrimination in jobs than women.

Glenda Cooper commiserates

So 1996 is the year that men finally went out and burnt their boxer shorts. Slammed by the Child Support Agency, emasculated by feminists, emotional and confused men are fighting back for equal rights.

Yesterday, the Equal Opportunities Commission confirmed that complaints from men were up 10 per cent on the previous year and – for the first time in its 20-year history – it has had more complaints about sexism in job recruitment from men than from women.

So all these endless pub harangues with blokes whingeing that "a woman will always be chosen for a job in front of a man" weren't merely self-silencing whines into the bottom of beer glasses. They were a statistic.

Men now face a 10.5 per cent unemployment rate compared with women's 4.3 per cent because the traditional heavy industry jobs-for-life have disappeared. But men's forays into the previously female-dominated areas of child care, nursing and hairdressing have been largely unsuccessful.

The EOC is currently celebrating a £2,500 out-of-court settlement for a male nurse refused a job with the RAF. Another case included a bricklayer who was refused a job as a secretary in case he was reluctant to make tea. And two men were aggrieved enough to go to the EOC after they were turned down for the Women's Environmental Network, an organisation that campaigns, among other things, on menstruation.

Yes, it's clear. Women are on the rise and men can't do anything to stop it, poor things. Every week another story of male subjugation seems to develop. New Man has given way to Redundant Male, and boy, do we hear about it.

It's not just leading proponents of the British men's movement such as David Thomas (the author of *Not guilty: in defence of the modern man*) who are bringing men's plight to our attention. It's everywhere.

A report by the think-tank Demos spoke gloomily of "male underachievement in schools", of the absence of fathers' rights and of the unhappiness of divorced men (72 per cent of divorces are now initiated by women; and 51 per cent of divorced men later said they would have preferred to stay married.)

By comparison, the "genderquake" – the rise of women's social and economic power – found four out of five women between 16 and 35 wanting to develop their career or find employment, and only half seeing having children as a goal.

So we women, the first generation after the Sex Discrimination Act, have got it all – the career, the optimism, the success. Wonderful.

But that's only until you realise women's and men's rate of pay can differ by as much as 37 per cent while doing the same job. And while women form 44 per cent of the workforce compared with 37

New Man has given way to Redundant Man, and boy, do we hear about it

per cent 20 years ago, their greatest inroads are in part-time, low-paid jobs. Women who take a break to have a baby find it hard ever to catch up with their male counterparts.

And when men have overtaken women in complaining about sexism in job recruitment, only a quarter of sex discrimination complaints inside the workplace come from men (and are mainly to do with internal promotions and differing entitlement ages for pensions).

So men, who may have feared letting women into the boardroom would result in hundreds of *Discreet*-style harassment, can rest easy. They are unlikely to encounter Demi Moore clones wherever they turn. Nor are they likely to summon up much sympathy from women when they complain about another EOC case where a male country club receptionist was sacked by employers in favour of a "pretty girl". If that's positive discrimination, they can keep it.

And feminism hasn't meant that women can have it all. The Demos report reveals women still do two or three times the amount of cleaning as working men, and still take primary responsibility for child care. So don't believe men have suddenly got the monopoly on being oppressed. Grow up, boys, equality in the workplace, for male secretaries or female welders, is what we should all be striving for.

Beef isn't the burning issue

There is an economic argument for Britain leaving the EU, but it ignores the political reality



ANDREW MARR

We are dreaming of other Europe, other Britain. When Norman Lamont, the first mainstream Tory openly to address the possibility of leaving the European Union, raised the idea at the Tories' 1994 Bournemouth conference, it was denounced by the Prime Minister as fantasy. Less than two years later, the idea is coursing through a great swathe of his party. This counter-revolution is in full flood.

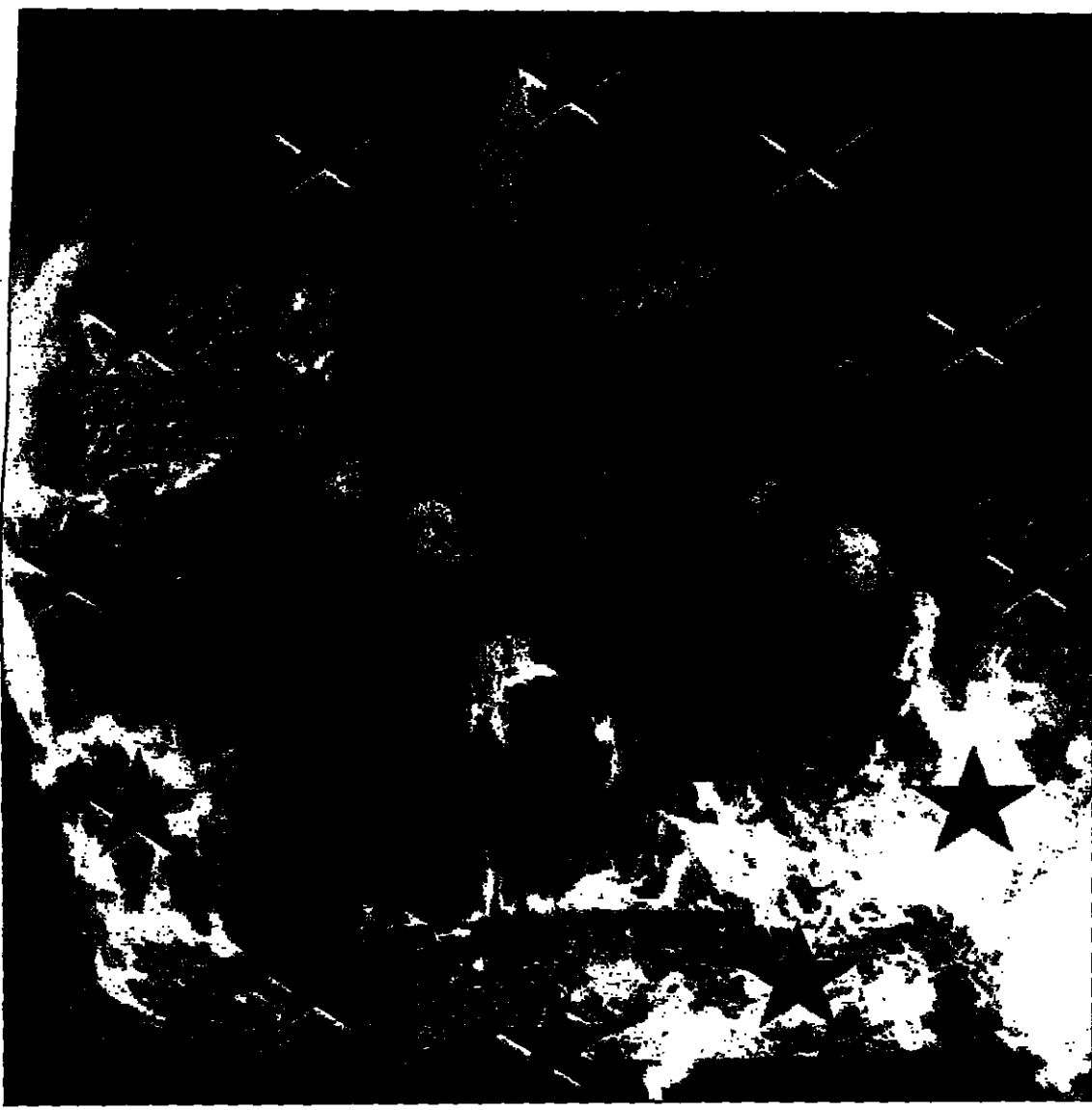
Today's controversy over the beef ban is merely the latest local skirmish in something much bigger. More important by far is the suddenly popular argument that Britain generally is being impoverished by her membership of the EU. This has the power to change everything.

Before, the anti-European case was largely about sovereignty, while the pro-European case was all about prosperity. No contest: offered the choice between the romance of political independence and greater wealth inside "Europe", the down-to-earth British would always plump for faster-growing living standards. Our affection for Parliament has never been as deep as parliamentarians think.

But if this argument now reverses itself, so that people believe the way to enrich themselves is through withdrawal, then the lip-smacking pragmatism that has underpinned British Europeanism suddenly disintegrates. The great project stands naked. All the accumulated irritation about invasive bureaucracy and popular xenophobia can be unleashed. And we are nearly there; this is an important moment for the nation.

It's true that the economics of British membership are more finely balanced than before. As world trading tariffs have fallen to about 3 per cent, the comparative advantage of being inside this particular trading bloc has fallen. Britain, an economically struggling country, pays around £3bn a year into EU coffers. Compared with the Asian economies, Europe is growing slowly. It has expensive levels of social protection.

These are the big facts on which the economic case for British withdrawal is being constructed. The vision is of an entrepreneurial Britain that lacks the social costs and labour laws of the Continent but which, as a member of the European Economic Area, enjoys all the trading benefits of today. It is a heady thought: Britain as a giant offshore Hong Kong, exploiting those



British cows going up in smoke: we shouldn't see the beef ban only as a tale of federalist failure

huge mainland markets but entirely free of the political and social shackles of the neighbouring union.

Think of it. No single currency arguments. No more interference with our historic right to produce inedible sausages and gum-filled crisps. Our fishing fleet free to sail the empty waters around our coasts. Our political destiny safely in the hands of John Major, Bill Cash, Michael Portillo. Parliament free to do whatever it wants to us without outside interference. Perhaps we could go the whole hog and withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights while we're about it: unshackle Michael Howard, say I. And all of the above is based, remember, on the new "heads we win, tails they lose" economics of withdrawal.

But the trouble with such macro-economic projections is that macro-economics doesn't exist. It is an abstraction from one kind of human

relationship, which gets the future wrong because it forgets changing politics and social behaviour. That was true of the burst dream of the Thatcher-Lawson boom. It was true of the subsequent Conservative promise of a feel-good factor, now about four years overdue. And it is likely to be true of optimistic Tory projections about EU withdrawal.

The withdrawal case makes two heroic assumptions. The first is that outside Europe, we would be changed – changed utterly – and thrive. But our problems are too deep to be laid at the doors of Brussels. I keep thinking of an attack on Scottish nationalism made by an economist a few years ago, who accused Scottish intellectuals of "spinelessly abandoning their obligation to speak truth to their society. Of warping our history, of cruelly deceiving the unemployed and the homeless, the lost and the lonely, by offering them a single, all-

weather explanation for their plight: England." Substitute "Europe" for "England" and that encapsulates aspects of the anti-Brexit crusade.

The second assumption is that the involvement of the UK in the EU does not affect continental politics at all; that Europe would act the same way without us and could accommodate us as a trading partner as easily as it accommodates Norway's 4.3 million people or Switzerland's 6.9 million. We have a trading deficit, after all, and free trade enriches everyone. Surely our economic ties would be unaffected?

A shrewd assessment of the grand politics of the EU was the one written in 1994 in a paper for Germany's Christian Democrats. This described a fault-line running diagonally across the Continent. It divided Mediterranean countries "inclined to protectionism" and led by France, from a north-east group "more in favour of free world trade and headed,

in a certain sense, by Germany".

It suits both native Euro-phobes and lofty continental politicians to pretend that Britain doesn't weigh at all in the grand politics of the EU. But that is clearly nonsense. We are unquestionably one of the "big three", and if we left, the balance between protectionist olive Europe and free-trading herring Europe (of which we are part) would shift.

It is quite possible that the EU would turn more protectionist, as the anti-free trade mood continues to build in different parts of the world. To regard the new free-trade order as firmly grounded and irreversible is wrong: the challenges to the free flow of goods from an authoritarian China, for example, will be numerous. Some will be couched in human rights terms, some in terms of the need for environmental standards.

However they are couched, though, France and her followers in the EU have a history of successfully stifling imports for political and social reasons. If Britain had left the EU and was gleefully parading her lack of social legislation and her ability to devalue as part of a strategy to drive deeper into French markets, who really believes that nothing further would follow? We are a little more important, and a little more threatening, than Norway.

We shouldn't, therefore, see the beef ban only as a tale of federalist failure; we should see it as a warning. Outside the EU, we would have even less leverage. Our absence would make it easier for protectionist instincts on the Continent to reassert themselves. And if they did, there would be nothing we could do. That is one of the political consequences of withdrawal that need to be set alongside the economic calculations described earlier.

But pro-Europeans, including those who, like me, want a looser, confederal union, should go further and admit that there are domestic political reasons for remaining inside. This is an argument about the future shape of the country, not just about trade.

A Britain that pulled out would be likely to remain politically centralised, dominated by the doctrine of parliamentary absolutism and determined on maximum social protection in order to maximise the economic benefits of independence.

Because this would represent the triumph of a style of conservative English nationalism much resented north of the border, it would probably help to drive Scotland away. That, in turn, would push the English counter-revolution further. We would become a retro-country. It is not a pretty thought. Though withdrawal is described as leading inexorably to the rebirth of a once-great trading nation, it sounds to me more like a way of turning us into a grimy island Gormenghast.

Better Johnners' tie than Jackie's pearls

Ruth Dudley Edwards looks forward to a cricket lover's auction

Have you heard about the Johnners auction?" I asked my hostess excitedly. Una looked blank. "Brian Johnston," I said, "Brian Johnston. The cricket commentator." She shook her head. I was momentarily baffled and disappointed, for Una never misses my references and always shares my joys and sorrows, but then I recollected that I was, after all, visiting Ireland, my native land, where mostly they think of cricket as an insect.

It was one of those defining moments; a kind of Norman Tebbit cricket test in reverse – a moment when the people from whom you sprang realise that you are no longer one of them. For Una was as baffled and stunned by my excitement as I had been by her ignorance. "You really have become very English," she said. And I had to agree. You have to be a pretty well assimilated immigrant to go into a John Major-like, misty-eyed

trance about village greens and warm beer and the sound of willow on leather and the blacksmith hitting the anvil for six. And, indeed, Brian Johnston.

I know Irish people who loved John Arlott but could see no charm in Johnners and his BBC commentary box playmates Blowers and Boff and Sir Frederick and his "Ooh-gosh-what-a-scrumptious-chocolate-cake-from-a-lady-listener-in-Chipping-Camden" babble. But I did, so the viewing of Johnners' cricketing memorabilia that opens at the auctioneers Phillips in London today makes me simultaneously sad and happy.

Sad like Mr Major, who remarked after Johnners' death two years ago that "summers will never be the same again" (leaving me and, I suspect,

thousands of others momentarily speculating wildly on the identity of Johnners' mysterious and bearded chum, Summers). Happy, for a world in which a great international auctioneer expects serious bidding for each of Johnners' 250 cricket ties is a world that still has innocence, perspective and a love of England that has nothing to do with jingoism or racist loaths. Those who allege that England has lost its soul and fallen victim to American cultural imperialism should contemplate the moral and cultural gulf between the Jackie O and Johnners auctions – the one suitable only for the venomous pen of Truman Capote; the other for the merry typewriter of PG Wodehouse.

There will be no hysteria and little greed at the auction on Saturday, and

there should be a lot of laughter. Starting with some of Johnners' funniest broadcasts, the proceedings will be interrupted for cucumber sandwiches at lunch and for tea and cake at 4pm. And if it might seem silly to pay an estimated £150 for an MCC tie belonging to a happy, much-loved entertainer, surely it is healthier than paying £211,500 for false pearls belonging to a woman whose major achievement was to marry the rich and famous?

The Johnners collection includes scorecards, commentary notes, *Wisden*, photographs, books, prints and cartoons. And when those lots have been snapped up, there will be a sale on behalf of the Brian Johnston Memorial Fund (set up to continue his support for grassroots cricket, young

players and the disabled) of items contributed by friends and colleagues. They were asked by Mrs Johnners for headgear: Geoffrey Boycott, in his bowlerdinner persona, contributed a signed Panama hat; Ian Botham – ever the individualist (or did he read the letter hastily?) – sent a bat (signed and miniature) rather than a bat.

The sale ends with cricketalia for the discerning collector: four diaries, *Windy Fair* prints, an 1870 *Wisden*, WG Grace photograph, oleograph and postcard, and a 1905 autograph album put together by a Nottinghamshire committeeman.

Saturday will be a day when good Englishmen and true can feel the spirit of Johnners all about them and pretend that in Granchester the clock is still at 10 to three, honey is indeed on the tea menu and the rumour that Jeffrey Archer lives in the vicarage has turned out to be unfounded.

EXTINGUISH

SWITCH TO THE WWF VISA CARD & THE ANNUAL FEE WILL DISAPPEAR.
But you'll help save world wildlife from the same fate.

You get an annual fee free credit card with the major financial advantages outlined below. WWF receives a royalty for every card issued, and ongoing donations every time you make purchases on your card – at no extra cost to you. That's extra cash we can use to help save species from extinction.

- No annual fee
- Low purchase interest rate – just 18.9% APR (variable)
- Pay off existing borrowing at only 13.9% APR, fixed for six months
- Fund WWF projects at no extra cost to you

Don't delay. Send the coupon NOW for your FREE information pack. Or call this FREEPHONE number.

0800 77 62 62
Please quote ref: BT 50

The WWF Visa Card is a credit card issued by Visa Europe Ltd. It is subject to the standard Visa Card terms and conditions. The card is not redeemable for cash. The card is not to be used for cash advances. The card is not to be used for gambling. The card is not to be used for any illegal or fraudulent purposes. The card is not to be used for any purpose that would bring the WWF into disrepute. The card is not to be used for any purpose that would bring the Visa Card into disrepute. The card is not to be used for any purpose that would bring the WWF or Visa into disrepute. The card is not to be used for any purpose that would bring the WWF or Visa into disrepute.

Please rush me my FREE WWF Visa Card information pack

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms): _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Home tel no: (IMPORTANT) _____

Please return to: MIRA International Bank Ltd, PO Box 1048, FREEPOST, Chester CH4 9ZZ.

14
obituaries / gazette

William Colby

The last of the great spymasters, William Colby contrived in his later years to appear as a normal person rather than a shadowy figure burdened down with the nation's secrets.

Shortly after his retirement as CIA director in 1976 I literally bumped into him coming out of the Century Club in New York. He was wearing his raincoat and a hat, but underneath this espionage garb was a pleasant and gracious man. His autobiography, *Honorable Men*, had just been published and he was briefly a celebrity and, perhaps, more open to someone he had never met stopping him in the street and asking to talk about Soviet missiles. That is what he did. I'm not saying he told me any secrets; he didn't. I just wanted to note that he could be approachable in a way his more furtive colleagues such as James Angleton never were. It seemed that he was trying to be more open.

Colby began his 30-year espionage career during the Sec-

ond World War as a member of Major-General J. "Wild Bill" Donovan's Office of Strategic Services. He was dropped behind enemy lines in German-occupied France and Norway, where he blew up railroads, joined resistance networks and led groups of underground fighters. Recently, at a spies' reunion, Colby recalled the first time he parachuted into France in 1944. "We established contact with London and started gathering resistors. We taught them how to mine railroad tracks and destroy bridges. We tried to get a Panzer division to fight us instead of going on to Normandy. We held them up for three weeks. You can't get a Panzer division to stay very long with three men and a bunch of kids."

When President Harry Truman disbanded Donovan's "Wild Boys" immediately after the war the Central Intelligence Agency quickly replaced it as the permanent espionage service to counter the KGB.

Colby rose swiftly through the ranks and was most active during the Vietnam war, when he became Saigon station chief and then chief of the agency's Far East division. He steered the infamous intelligence operations that now belong to another distant era - the strategic hamlet programme, the coup against Diem, the CIA's worldwide anti-Communist cultural, labour, student and media covert missions. He was at the centre of the secret war in Laos and the disastrous Vietnam Pacification Programme and the so-called Cords (Civil Operations and Rural Development Support), including Operation Phoenix, which was intended to destroy rural support for the Communist guerrillas and led to sweeping arrests, torture and the execution of suspects.

He was director of the CIA from 1973 to 1976, a time when the agency came under intense scrutiny over its dirty tricks from the media and Congress.

Its more outrageous operations were brought somewhat to heel. After Vietnam, Colby was in charge when the spy agency helped overthrow President Allende in Chile, and, of course, he was head of the CIA under President Nixon during Watergate. He was fired by President Ford and returned to a law practice in Washington DC.

In *Honorable Men* he strove to put a corporate face on "the company", analysing the so-called "three cultures" of a Cold War spy operation - the James Bonds, the political and paramilitary activists, and the analysts who read books and papers.

It was the war in Vietnam that filled the central part of Colby's CIA career. He was sent to Saigon first in 1959, and was CIA director when Saigon fell in 1975. In his memoir of Vietnam, entitled *Lost Victory* (1989), Colby joined a long list of other officials such as Robert McNamara, who tried to retrace their steps and salvage some-

thing from the wreckage of American policy in South East Asia. "If only they had taken my advice" is the standard lament



Colby: the last great spymaster

in these works, and Colby was no exception. Most of these accounts contain little new pertinent information.

Colby's line was that victory was within grasp after the pacification programme (the one he directed), but was thrown away

by wrong-headed policies - mainly inadequate levels of military aid.

His book was viewed by the harshest critics as more a compilation of government press releases than a serious attempt to analyse the American adventure in Vietnam. In one passage, Colby asserted that "on the ground in South Vietnam, the war had been won" by 1972 - mainly as a result of the pacification programme. Colby was an unrepentant professional, no remorse for him.

He could not bring himself to admit the extent of the failure that has been so well documented, nor the implications of the corruption rife in the Saigon government. His military overview also left out the key factor. While the South Vietnamese forces had withstood a big offensive from the North they had lost bases and taken such high casualties that some divisions had not recovered by the time the end came in 1975.

Colby was also taken to task

for his view of the evacuation of Saigon and the fate of the CIA station's employees who were left behind. Colby treated too lightly for his critics the charges that many who should have been helped were abandoned and that sensitive documents incriminating them were also left behind. In a 1977 book, *Decent Interval*, a former CIA officer, Frank Snepp, claimed that 70 Vietnam translators and their families were left in one CIA compound. Colby admitted only that "many who should have been helped to depart were not, but many others were".

In the end, Colby tried hard to accept CIA reforms but found it as difficult as any of Donovan's "Wild Boys" to be reined in and expected to play by new rules - especially to account for agency actions before Congress.

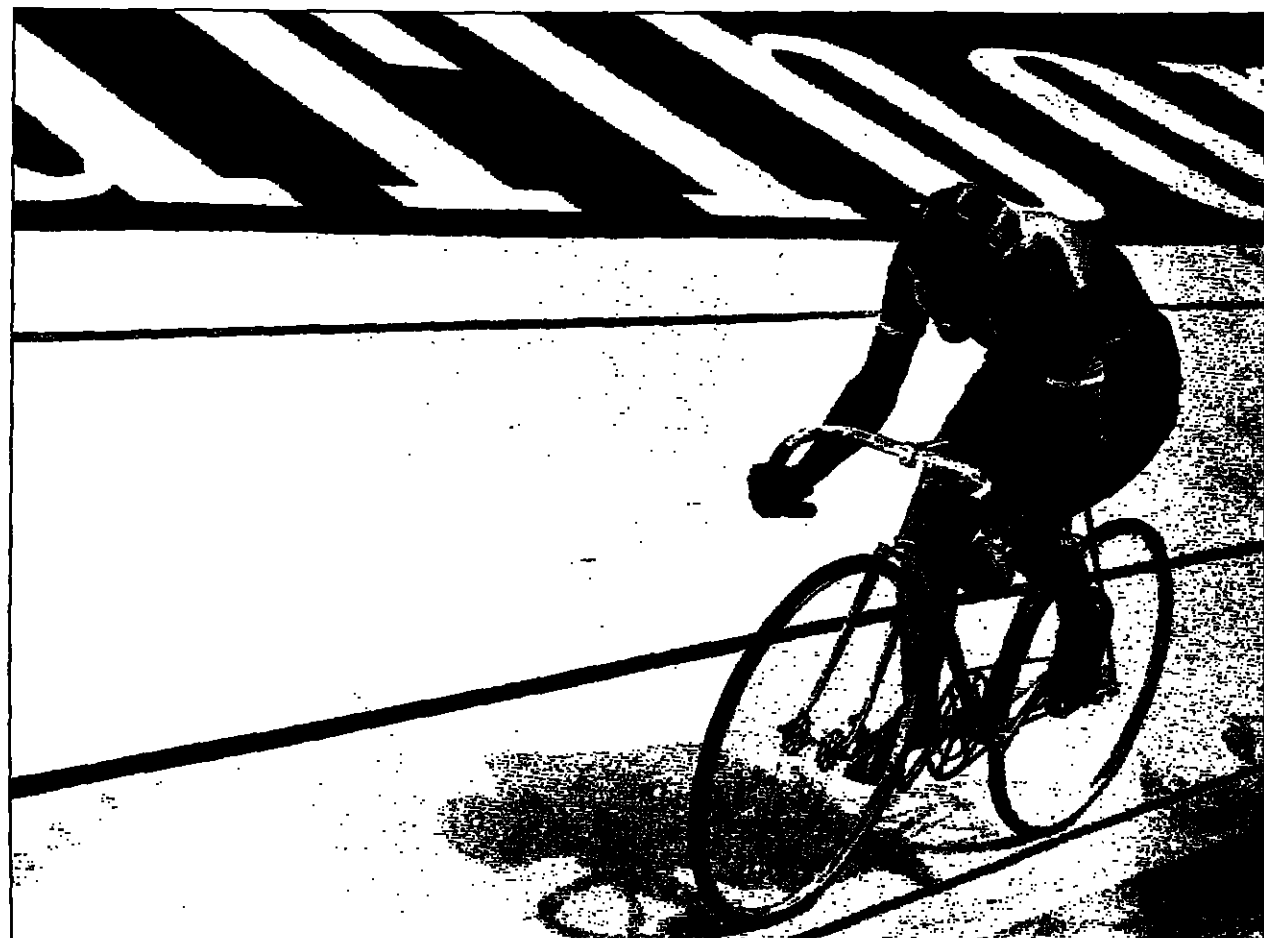
In one of his last appearances, a year ago, among old campaigners, Colby was still cheering on the boys in their

under-cover, modern espionage fight against terrorism, organised crime, drugs and the secret development of nuclear weapons. Good intelligence, he said, can replace "ignorance, fear and suspicion with knowledge and confidence". In other words, so far as he was concerned "the company" was still in business and there was much work to be done.

Peter Fringale

William Egan Colby, lawyer and government official: born St Paul, Minnesota 4 January 1920; *Attache, American Embassy, Stockholm* 1951-53, *Rome* 1953-58, *First Secretary, Saigon* 1959-62; *Head, Far East Division, Central Intelligence Agency* 1963-67; *Ambassador, Director of Civil Operations and Rural Development Support, Saigon* 1968-71; *Executive Director, CIA* 1973-75; *Director* 1975-76; married 1945 Barbara Heinemann (three sons, one daughter); 1984 Sally Shelton; died Cobb Island, Maryland 27 April 1996.

Beryl Burton



Burton in 1970: starting from 1959, she won 25 consecutive Best British All-Rounder titles

Photograph: Allsport

No other British sportswoman has dominated their field in the way that Beryl Burton dominated the world of cycling. As *Velo Gotha*, the Belgian-published bible of cycling facts and figures succinctly puts it: "She was the best known and most successful woman cyclist."

In the course of a career that spanned five decades, the fiercely competitive Yorkshirewoman won seven world titles - two road race championships and five track pursuit titles - and 96 national titles - 12 road race championships, 13 pursuit titles and 71 time trial titles against the clock.

Although she won her last titles in 1986 and in recent years was dogged by ill-health, she was entered to ride the national "10" mile championship next weekend. Some habits are hard to break. Time trialling, racing against the clock over a set distance, was Burton's speciality.

It was solitary discipline, both mentally and physically taxing. Starting in 1959, Burton won 25 consecutive Best British All-Rounder titles, awarded to the fastest woman against the watch over 25, 50 and 100 mile distances. Along the way she set speed records, some in 1976 at

the age of 39, at all three distances, which still stand.

Cycling, at least in Britain, is not a rich sport, and Burton worked throughout her life in order to support her ambitions. Asked in the 1980s why she continued to ride prodigious distances every week and race against women half her age, Burton bluntly replied "because I like cycling". She was a true amateur in that respect, loyally riding throughout her career for Morley CC.

Burton supervised her own training, rode the races she wanted and had little to do with the sport's governing bodies. But her achievements were impossible to ignore and she was awarded an MBE in 1964 and an OBE in 1968. Despite such recognition Burton never felt that either the local or national press properly appreciated her efforts.

She may have had a point since, when she was at the peak of her powers, she regularly beat the men. In 1967, she overtook Mike McNamara in an OTC 12-hour time trial on her way to setting a women's record of 277.25 miles in the set time. McNamara's distance of 276.52 miles in the same event

was itself a new men's record.

When Burton overtook men during a race, they could always expect a quickfire witticism or word of encouragement. When she overtook McNamara she nonchalantly offered him a liquorice allsort.

The next year, in 1968, she set a women's 100-mile record in a time of three hours and 55 minutes. It was the fourth fastest ride over that distance in Britain by any rider of the time. Such feats in another, more popular sport would have earned Burton world-wide recognition.

Burton's involvement with the sport that dominated her life came about by chance. Her first job as a teenager was in a tailoring firm in Leeds where she noticed a young man make a clicking noise as he walked across the factory floor. This was Charlie Burton and he was wearing cycling shoes with metal cleats on their soles.

She married Charlie when she was 17 and he remained in the background throughout her career as helpmate, mechanic and companion. His family provided Burton with the support that allowed her to continue her racing career after

daughter Denise was born in 1955.

Denise herself grew into a powerful cyclist, representing her country at international level. Relations between mother and daughter became difficult as they emerged as racing rivals in the 1970s. After Denise outperformed Burton in the 1975 national road race championship to take the title, her mother refused to shake hands with her on the podium. As Burton explained in her 1986 autobiography, *Personal Best*, the race was the culmination of a series of acrimonious rows: "This is not a story for some romantic magazine, it is a real life narrative about basically ordinary people with jangled nerves and emotions, our bitter conflict played out in an almost gladiatorial fashion."

An emotional reconciliation followed, though the two women were never bound together by their love of the sport in the way that Burton had wanted.

Tim Clifford

Beryl Charnock, cyclist: born Leeds 12 May 1937; MBE 1964; OBE 1968; married 1954 Charlie Burton (one daughter); died Harrogate 5 May 1996.

Ivo Jarosy

For more than 50 years, the Academy Cinema in Oxford Street was London's pre-eminent art house. It was here in the Thirties that British audiences first saw major films of Jean Renoir and Marcel Carné, and where, in later years, the reputations of Ingmar Bergman, Andrzej Wajda, Satyajit Ray, Jean-Luc Godard, Miklos Jancso and many others were largely established in this country. The Academy's fastidious standards were maintained by a succession of just three people. The last of these was Ivo Jarosy, who reluctantly closed the cinema in 1986.

Jarosy arrived in England in 1938 and became a publicist at the Academy, working for the formidable Elsie Cohen who had inaugurated its art-house policy. His stepfather, George Hoellering, was a director of the cinema and ran it after the war with Jarosy as his right-hand man. Jarosy's meticulously compiled press releases helped many a reviewer unravel the complexities of the often difficult and challenging films that the Academy liked to show. He also worked closely with Peter Strausfeld who created linocut images for the Academy's distinctive posters (the cinema refused any existing artwork), and commissioned the silk-screen designs that appeared after Strausfeld's death.

Hoellering and Jarosy would visit the major festivals and for many years bought films for their own releasing subsidiary, but their offer of an Academy run would be enough for other British distributors to acquire a picture. Many films that are now regarded as classics, such as

Ray's *Pather Panchali* and Jancso's *The Round Up* were daring choices that opened British eyes to the work of new directors. In fact, *Pather Panchali* was owned by a rival specialised cinema which was reluctant to show it.

The Academy demanded an exclusive run for every film it booked, and even rescued British and Hollywood films that were on the shelf, most notably Ken Loach's *Kes* in 1970. As Jarosy recalled in an interview he gave for the Winter 1994/5 issue of the magazine *Picture House*, "Kes was probably the biggest financial success we ever had. We said to the distributors, 'Look, we think it's a wonderful film. Why don't you put it on at the biggest cinema you can find?' They said it wouldn't work. 'Why not?' You need subsidies, you can't understand what the people are saying! And they said, 'We don't think so.' The press, of course, went crazy over it."

Inevitably, the Academy relied heavily on the support of the critics, who did not always encourage audiences to see its choices. If a film was doing badly, there were old classics to be brought back in sparkling new prints (it was always reviving *Les Enfants du Paradis* as if to make up for the fact that this was one of the films it did not premiere in London). And many will gratefully recall the regular summer seasons of silent Buster Keaton comedies and Laurence Olivier's Shakespearean adaptations.

In order to show more films, especially those of very limited appeal, the Academy added a small cinema, initially run as a

club, in place of adjacent offices in 1964, then the following year created a third, mid-size auditorium in the basement. It never became the most comfortable of venues, but the striking red mock-curtain decorative scheme of the main auditorium walls, created by Angus McBean in 1954, set the tone for serious deliberation of the film on screen. McBean also designed the Pavilion Restaurant, the best attached to a West End cinema. If the Academy had a curable fault, it lay perhaps in the supporting stories which were, of course, carefully chosen but seemed too often on the ponderous side.

After Hoellering's death in 1980, Jarosy kept the Academy going through what had become, after so many years of success, difficult times. Jarosy recalled: "In the last ten years of its existence, we subsidised the running of the Academy by about £1.5 million, from the money from the letting of offices in the building. It was getting worse all the time. Our faithful



Jarosy: art house cinema

audience was getting old and didn't like going out any more at night. And any film shown in a specialised cinema was going to show up on television after a shorter and shorter interval. And, of course, as far as our situation went, it was never very good for a cinema. Leicester Square and its approaches are the place for West End cinemas." But Jarosy's tastes had perhaps aged with him and newcomers like the Lumiere had seized the initiative.

Jarosy enjoyed his retirement, reading poetry and watching old film favourites on television but never succumbing to video. I last saw him on the Monday before his death when he attended the National Film Theatre's tribute to his old friend on the festival circuit, the late programmer and critic John Gilling. Jarosy always seemed the most courteous, patient and considerate of men in his business dealings. During my interview he remembered his delight in 1956 when the Academy was offered Elia Kazan's film *Baby Doll* by puzzled Wardour Street executives who were appalled by its sizzling box-office potential. I reluctantly excised the anecdote and amended several other comments because he feared they made him seem "smug and arrogant" at other people's expense.

Allen Eyles

Ivo Rudolph Jarosy, film exhibitor: born Berlin 9 November 1921; married 1952 Joan Grant (two sons); died London 1 May 1996.

Peter Swales



Swales: belief that Manchester City could be bigger than United

The story of Peter Swales, who died three days before Manchester City lost their place in the Premiership, and of his former partner Noel White, is worthy of Thomas Hardy. The two men formed a small business (radio and hi fi) at exactly the right time - in the early Sixties - when technological advance and rising affluence met, for a huge market to be created. Their prosperity gave the partners the time and money to indulge in a hobby, in their case a local football club, Altrincham.

Their knowledge, enthusiasm, hard work and choice of managers, turned Altrincham from nobodies into one of the leading clubs outside the Football League.

In nearby Manchester the two big clubs, United and City, were not far off parity. Would United ever recover from the loss of Matt Busby's shrewdness and wisdom? Could City, the major club pre-war, overtake them again? The essential difference lay in the boardrooms: United managed to keep any friction to themselves; City, the more friendly and open club, kept their heart on their sleeve.

At Maine Road, a majority shareholding became available in 1973. City's directors wanted someone with money and preferably with a knowledge and love of football. One director Swales's most extraordinary deals, the signing of an almost unknown Wolves midfielder Tony Daley for the then phenomenal sum of £1 million, was done behind his back. Allison had agreed a much lesser fee with the Wolves' manager and had turned his at-

ention elsewhere while Wolves waited for boardroom ratification. Swales, according to Allison, intervened on a chairman to chairman basis and secured the transfer instantly but at a much higher price.

Thus it would be fair to say that no manager felt entirely secure with Swales. The situation might never have become threatening, however, but for the arrival of Alex Ferguson at Old Trafford. City, who for a decade had had the pick of local promise, found a reconstructed United with them on every school and youth club touchline. Ferguson also used United's greater financial resources to better effect in the transfer market as he rebuilt Busby's empire. The pressure for such success at Maine Road grew heavier almost daily.

White had risen with Liverpool to unparalleled success and Swales's consolation was a climb through the ranks of the FA until he became chairman of the International Committee,

the body that controls the English management. The choice of Graham Taylor to succeed Bobby Robson was greeted, at the time, with almost universal approval, but the honeymoon did not last.

When Swales found a manager who might have taken City back to the summit, Howard Kendall, he soon lost him to Everton. He did find another, Peter Reid, who showed promise, but the progress wasn't fast enough and Reid had to go, a decision that Swales admitted afterwards was a mistake.

And when United started to win again on a regular basis, the support at Maine Road became increasingly challenging, confrontational and bitter.

Once Francis Lee, a City hero of the 1970s and millionaire businessman, had expressed an interest in taking over City, Swales's days were numbered. His boardroom position was still sound, but the violence of the attacks by fans at Maine Road, and against his family, eventually persuaded him to stand down although he retained his position with the FA.

City offered him the privileges and perks of a life presidency but he never returned to Maine Road.

City's relegation, last Monday, would have twisted his heart. Peter Swales died unwavering in his belief that Manchester City could be a bigger club than United.

Derek Hodgson

Peter Swales, football administrator: born Manchester 25 December 1932; married (three daughters); died Manchester 2 May 1996.

DEATHS

MASKELL, John on 1 May 1996, much loved by Lorna, Sarah, Ian, Fiona, Daniel, Jacob and Tullulah. Funeral Oxford Crematorium, Headington, Oxford Friday 10 May at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations if wished for Aston Rowant C.C. or Chisnor R.E.C. or John Maskell Sports Fund, Nat. West Bank, Princes Risborough, Bucks HP27 0AH.

WICKITT, Jess (nee MacVean), author and poet, greatly loved mother of Alexander and Caroline. Cremation West London Crematorium, Kensal

Births, Marriages & Deaths

Green Cemetery, Friday 10 May at 12 noon. Flowers to H.J. Bent, 343 Ludbrook Grove, London W10. Donations to Odam if desired.

Funerals, BIKES, MARRIAGES & DEATHS please ring 0171 293 2011.

Wills

Henry Alan Walter Richard Percy, 11th Duke of Northumberland, of Alnwick Castle, Alnwick, Northumberland, left estate valued at £5,364,311 net.

Mr Alan Dudley Bush, of Radlett,

Hertfordshire, composer, pianist, and Professor of Composition at the Royal Academy of Music 1925-78, left estate valued at £83,712 net.

Winifred Margaret Perrier, of London N6, sister of the late Kathleen Perrier, left estate valued at £194,471 net.

Birthdays

Mr Scobie Breasley, jockey, 51; Miss Teresa Brewer, actress and singer, 66; Lord Briggs, historian, 75; Mr Peter Carey, author, 53; Sir Charles Cunningham, former senior civil servant, 90; Professor Alan Cuthbert, Master of Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, 64; Sir Remy Girdles, former chairman, Dunlop, 84; Professor Robert Gooden, architect, 87; Sir James Gowans, former Deputy Chairman, Medical Research Council, 72; The Right Rev Robert Halliday, Bishop of Brechin, 64; Mr Robin Hasbany-Tennison, explorer and author, 60; Mr Michael Hawkes, former deputy chairman, Kilmarnock Bank, 67; Sir Lennox Hewitt, industrialist, 79; Sir Michael Hopkins, architect, 61; Lord Kirkhill, former Lord Provost of Aberdeen, 66; Mr David Leach, potter, 85; Mr Calum Macdonald MP, 40; Sir Neil Macfarlane, company di-

rector and former MP, 60; Mr David Marshall MP, 55; Sir Basil Nield, former MP and High Court judge, 93; Dr Tony O'Reilly, chairman, president and chief executive, H.J. Heinz, and rugby player, 60; Mr Richard O'Sullivan, actor, 52; Mrs Ruth Praver Jhabvala, author, 69; Mr William Pybus, chairman, Home-owners Friendly Society, 73; Mr Christopher Sanders, Headmaster, Lancing College, 56; Sir Arthur Spelling, former diplomat, 82; Miss Elizabeth Soderstrom, soprano, 69; Mr Clive Soley MP, 57; Mr David Tomlinson, actor, 79; Sir Alan Trill, former Lord Mayor of London, 61; Maj-Gen Henry Woods, Vice-Lord Lieutenant, North Yorks, 72.

Anniversaries

Births: David Hume, philosopher and historian, 1711; Robert Brown-

ing, poet, 1812; Johannes Brahms, composer, 1833; Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, composer, 1840; Rabindranath Tagore, poet, 1861; Josip Broz Tito, President of Yugoslavia, 1892; Gary Cooper (Frank James Cooper) film actor, 1901; Maria Eva Duarte Peron (Evarguen), Argentine leader, 1919; Anne Bodice, actress, 1923. **Deaths**: Caspar David Friedrich, landscape painter, 1840; Henry Peter, First Baron Brougham, statesman and lawyer, 1868; James Nasmyth, engineer and inventor of the steam hammer, 1890; William Heskeht Lever, First Viscount Leverhulme, soap millionaire, 1925; Paul Doumer, French president, assassinated by the Russian Paul Gorgoullov 1932; George Lansbury, leader of the Labour party, 1940; Max Miller, comedian, 1963; John Masters, novelist, 1983. On this day: the first Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, opened in London, 1663; HMS Vic-

tor, Nelson's flagship, was launched at Chatham, 1765; Greece was proclaimed an independent kingdom, 1832; the Cunard liner *Lugetania* was sunk by a German submarine, 1915; the qualifying age of women voters was reduced from 30 to 21 (the "Franchise Vote"), 1928; Neville Chamberlain resigned as Prime Minister, 1940; Germany surrendered unconditionally to the Allies, 1945; the Vietnam captured Dien Bien Phu from the French, 1954; Leonid Brezhnev became chief of state of the USSR, 1960; Today is the Feast Day of St Dominus of Neversaint, St John of Beverley, St Letard or Lichard and Saints Serenus and Sereus.

Lectures

Leicester University: Professor Alan Nelson, "Alzheimer, Sodomy, Necromancy: from the 17th East of Oxford

to Christopher Marlowe", 4.30pm. **University College, London**: Professor Mary Fulbrook, "The Presence of the Past: national identity and German history", 5.30pm.

National Portrait Gallery: Frances Homan, "Royal Favourite: George Villiers, 1st Duke of Buckingham", 1.10pm.

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, "May-be (I): Giordano A Homage to Velazquez", 1pm.

British Museum: Jack Phillips, "Aztec, capital of a lost empire", 1.15pm.

Kaye Webb

A service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Kaye Webb MBE will take place at St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Square, at 3pm on Tuesday 21 May 1996.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen Mother visits Cynthia Spencer House, Northampton Committee of Cancer Relief Museum Fund, to mark its 20th Anniversary. The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Member, attends the 40th anniversary dinner of the Tiger Club at the New and Military Club, 94 Piccadilly, London W1. Princess Margaret, President, the Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, attends the Annual General Meeting at the Sheraton Grand Hotel, Edinburgh. Princess Alexandra opens the William Morris Exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, London SW7. The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, visits GKN Westland Aerospace, East Cowes and visits Pegasus Britten-Norman Ltd, Bournemouth Airport, Isle of Wight.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Irish Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Grenadier Guards.

BoE offers to broker Eurotunnel settlement

PETER RODGERS
Business Editor

The Bank of England has told Eurotunnel's lead bankers that it is prepared to help broker a settlement with the rest of the company's 225-strong lending syndicates.

The Bank's offer to step in came as fears grew that a requirement for a unanimous vote by the syndicates could prove one of the biggest obstacles to signing and sealing an agreement to rescue Eurotunnel.

Even on the assumption that the lead banks reach a settlement with the company in negotiations that have started this week over £8.1bn of debt, a single maverick bank among the rest of the 225 could wreck the plan by voting against it.

Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation was nearly brought to its knees when a single bank held out against a financial rescue a few years ago.

The move reverses the Bank of England's present policy of leaving the Eurotunnel crisis to be sorted out by the company and its bankers, with the help of the French central bank and Treasury. Since Eurotunnel appointed mediators under French law the focus of negotiations has shifted to Paris, leaving the Bank in a back seat.

The Bank is not thought to have offered to step into the top level negotiations under way between Eurotunnel and a group of six lenders, which are over-

seen by 20 other senior banks. Its intervention is aimed at helping these lead banks sell any deal to the rest.

There are, however, reports of continuing disagreements among the lead banks, which are believed to have put forward a swap of up to £3.5bn of debt for 49 per cent of the equity as an option in the talks. Another proposal is a revenue bond securing part of the tunnel's cash for the banks.

Under the plan now circulating, the Bank would follow the pattern of its previous involvement in Eurotunnel, which has usually been to bring home the banks' votes once a top level deal has been reached.

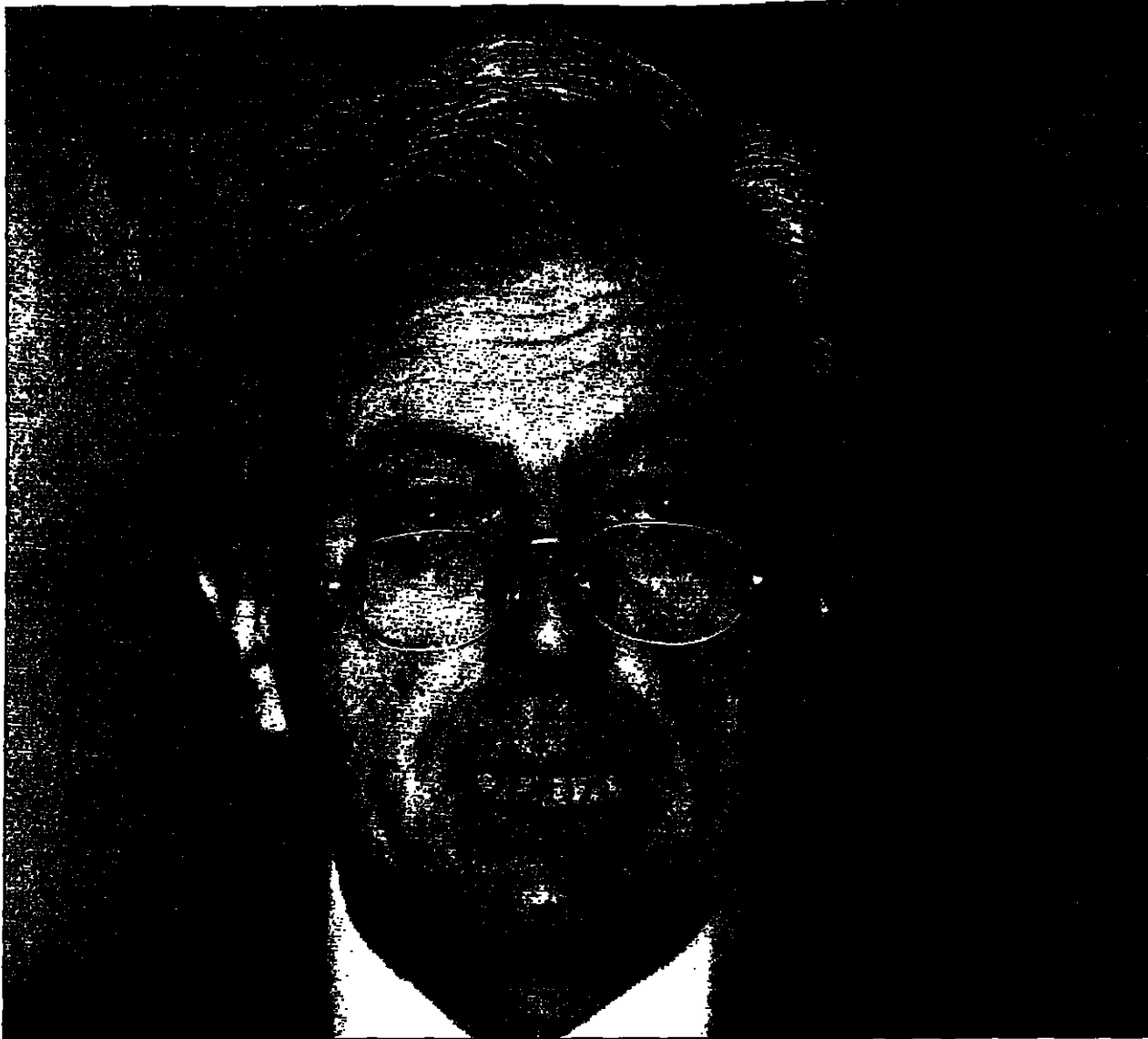
The Bank played a crucial role in persuading lenders to agree the £1.6bn rights issue and debt refinancing announced two years ago.

The Bank also brokered a settlement between Eurotunnel and TransManche Link, the consortium of contractors, which was in dispute with the company over cost overruns.

One insider described the Bank's proposed role as "helping to show a minority of banks that preservation of value for the banks as a whole is worth more than individual self-interest".

On past precedents, the lead banks will almost certainly have to amend the terms of negotiations with the rest of the syndicates.

One risk is that the syndicates will be blackmailed by in-



Banks beware: Patrick Ponsolle, the French co-chairman of Eurotunnel, has been 'too strident in backing shareholders'

dividual banks or groups of banks holding out for special favours. Another more technical problem is that some banks may have been taken over or have sold their loans to others.

Meanwhile, attempts by some banks to press the Eurotunnel co-chairman, Sir Alastair Morton, to quit ahead of the negotiations appear to have failed. He and Patrick Ponsolle, the French co-chairman, are seen by some banks as pushing too stridently for the rights of share-

holders, who must also approve a rescue.

A group of shareholders said yesterday they were considering legal action against the banks under French bankruptcy law, claiming the banks were acting as "shadow directors" and effectively running the firm.

Other potential claims were for excessive lending and misrepresentation, they said.

Albert Gaudin, chairman of Adactec, a French shareholders' association said he was

"extremely unhappy" about the proposed 49 per cent debt for equity swap and he said the banks should write off two thirds of their debt, to reflect its price in the secondary market.

Christian Cambier, chairman of another group, Eurotunnel Shareholders' Association, proposed the banks should take up to 50 per cent of the capital at a share price of 30 francs, comparable with what shareholders had paid in the first place. If it were as low as 5 francs - around

the current share price - he would prefer bankruptcy to the banks' debt for equity swap.

Meanwhile, Eurotunnel said Le Shuttle carried 154,522 tourist vehicles in April and 5,372 coaches, a 60 per cent increase on a year earlier. Freight increased 88 per cent, with 42,689 trucks carried. But British and French railway traffic through the tunnel was unchanged from March. Eurotunnel shares fell FF0.05 to FF5.65 in Paris.

Lucas confirms talks of possible link with Varsity

JOHN WILLCOCK

Lucas Industries is in "preliminary talks" with Varsity Corporation of the US which could lead to a link-up between their car brake divisions or full-blown merger of the two companies.

A merger would create a global auto parts maker with a market capitalisation of nearly £3bn and sales of £4.7bn.

The announcement was prompted yesterday by week-end press speculation that Lucas was planning to merge its foundation brakes business with the anti-lock braking systems manufactured by Kelsey-Hayes, part of Varsity.

Lucas emphasised that "discussions are in a very early stage and there can be no assurance that any agreement will be reached".

The talks could mean Lucas has given up on its previous efforts to buy Carlo de Benedetti's 30 per cent stake in Valeo, the giant French car components maker. Lucas refused to comment.

The company will also need soon to find a successor to George Simpson, who steps down as Lucas chief executive next autumn. One name in the frame is John Towers, who resigned as head of Rover last week.

The talks with Varsity are seen by analysts as another sign of global consolidation in the auto parts industry, increasingly dominated by a few main suppliers.

Whether the talks succeed or not, Lucas will still seek a buyer for its aerospace division, worth about £600m, according to analysts yesterday. Mr

Simpson's revival strategy is seen to be still incomplete as far as most City opinion goes.

Components companies are on a merger binge. In February, AlliedSignal of the US agreed to sell its anti-lock and hydraulic-brake business to German conglomerate Robert Bosch, for \$1.5bn.

"The business is consolidating pretty rapidly these days," said Ross Seymour, an analyst with First of Michigan Corporation in the US. He added that the industry was moving toward having a few big suppliers for each system, such as brakes, wheels or interiors. These would have the resources to follow big car makers in their expansion world-wide.

Lucas's shares last traded on Friday, falling 5p to 208p.

Varsity's businesses include VarsityKelsey-Hayes, the world's largest maker of rear-wheel and four-wheel anti-lock braking systems. Its VarsityDayton-Walther unit makes wheel and brake components for trucks and trailers.

Varsity had sales last year of \$2bn. Its other businesses include VarsityParkins, a maker of diesel engines, and VarsityZecol, which makes copper-to-ceramics bonding products used for electronics.

Lucas supplies parts and systems to the auto and aerospace industries and makes disc and drum brakes for auto makers world-wide. Its car disc brakes are the most widely used in the world, it says.

Lucas also makes diesel systems, electrical and electronic systems for the auto industry and replacement parts for the car after-market. The company has annual sales of about \$4.5bn.

US utilities set to bid £1.7bn for Midlands

MICHAEL HARRISON

Two US utilities are set to launch an agreed £1.7bn bid for Midlands Electricity today, rekindling takeover fever in the power industry.

The US bid from General Public Utilities of New Jersey and the Cincinnati-based Cinergy is expected to be pitched at around 430p a share.

There was speculation last night, however, that a third US power group - Houston Industries - could yet mount a counter-offer provoking an all-out bid battle for Midlands.

PowerGen, whose £1.95bn bid for Midlands was blocked two weeks ago by Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, could be pivotal to the outcome.

The generator has a 21 per cent stake in Midlands acquired at the time of its original offer last September. The holding is showing a \$57m profit but could net PowerGen as much as £100m if a contested bid battle develops.

Separately PowerGen is expected to decide in the next two days whether to apply for a judicial review of Mr Lang's decision to block its bid.

One option for PowerGen is to sell its Midlands stake to the highest bidder but still opt for a judicial review.

One source said: "We want to understand why Mr Lang reached the decision he did, what the ground rules are for the future and at what stage there will be sufficient competition in generation to allow us to buy a regional electricity company."

Mr Lang ignored the advice of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission by blocking the Midlands deal and National Power's £2.5bn bid for Southern Electric arguing they would

have created unacceptable vertical integration of electricity generation and supply.

GPU, the latest suitor for Midlands, is capitalised at \$3.8bn and owns three electricity suppliers in the eastern US - Jersey Central Power and Light, Metropolitan Edison and Pennsylvania Electric. It has a turnover of just under \$4bn and made after-tax profits of \$352m last year.

Houston Industries bid unsuccessfully for Norweb, the electricity supplier for North-west England, last year, but it is known to have been watching developments since then

quite closely and remains keen to buy a Rec. The company is valued at \$5.5bn and generates and supplies electricity to more than 1.5 million customers on the Gulf Coast of Texas, making it the ninth-largest US electricity utility.

If the latest bid for Midlands succeeds it will be the third British electricity supplier to be acquired by a bidder from the United States.

The Southern Company of Atlanta Georgia bought South Western Electricity for £1.1bn last year and Central and South West, also of Texas, bought Seaboard for £1.6bn.

Black 'ready to increase stakes in Fairfax when law permits'

MATTHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Conrad Black is still intent on raising his stake in Fairfax, the Australian media company, despite rampant rumours to the contrary, a senior executive said yesterday.

"We intend to raise our holding when and if we are permitted to do so," Daniel Colson, vice-chairman of the Telegraph group and Mr Black's senior lieutenant, said yesterday. "All these rumours that we are pre-

pared to sell are just not true." Through the Telegraph group, Mr Black holds 25 per cent of Fairfax, the maximum permitted under Australia's media cross-ownership rules. The new government in Canberra has promised to review the restrictions in coming months.

Fairfax has been a takeover target for more than two years. Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation holds a 5 per cent stake, while local media baron Kerry Packer has a 17 per cent holding. All three media com-

panies have said they would be interested in taking control. Rumours that Mr Black might be prepared to sell were sparked by his recent offer to buy out the minority shareholders of the Telegraph group. As part of the \$5.7bn offer, Mr Black's Hollinger International said it would share with Telegraph investors any profits from the sale of the Fairfax stake at a price of more than \$3 a share. Fairfax is one of the country's largest media groups.

Lloyd's finds an extra £900m for names

PETER RODGERS
Business Editor

A extra £900m has been found for hard pressed Lloyd's names as a result of a re-evaluation of the financing needs of Equitas, the reinsurance vehicle that is central to the market's rescue.

The surprisingly large reduction in the cost of funding Equitas is the biggest boost that David Rowland, Lloyd's chairman, has had so far to the prospect of persuading names to vote in favour of the rescue plan.

Together with other additional contributions from brokers, agents and the sale of buildings, which could total as much as £400m, the original £2.8bn rescue package could be improved by at least £1.2bn.

This will allow Lloyd's to write to names shortly - probably next Friday or Monday - offering them substantial extra



David Rowland: Needs to show that Lloyd's is solvent

incentives to vote in favour of the rescue, provisionally on 15 July.

One likely change is a halving to £50,000 of the proposed £100,000 cap on future liabilities for further losses, once they have signed up to the rescue package.

The timetable is thought to be slipping, however, because of the extra work involved in refining the settlement. Without a vote in favour by the end of August, when Lloyd's must prove it is still solvent, there would almost certainly be a collapse of the market.

There will be other benefits offered in next weekend's letter. It will include concessions for names who have paid their losses as demanded, for the hardest hit who have won legal actions and for those who are suing accountability firms.

The number of names eligible for payments by the market is also likely to be expanded from the present 5,000, though Lloyd's would not confirm that the number would reach 6,000.

The reduction comes after detailed negotiations between market authorities and the Department of Trade and Industry.

Hongkong Telecom aims for stronger Chinese ties

STEPHEN VINES
Hong Kong

The Hong Kong rumour machine is buzzing with speculation that Hongkong Telecom will soon find a new partnership, following the collapse of merger talks between Cable & Wireless, its majority shareholder, and British Telecom.

The Hong Kong company's heavy reliance on China's goodwill, following next year's takeover of the colony, also suggests that HKT will be looking to reinforce its commercial ties with Chinese entities.

This view was reinforced last week when the British-controlled Swire Pacific ceded its regional Dragonair airline to the state-run China National Aviation Corporation and gave over a 25 per cent stake in Cathay Pacific airline to China's leading investment company, the China

International Trust and Investment Corp. Heavily reliant on Chinese regulatory decisions, Swire was seen as buying a huge amount of political insurance.

HKT is equally reliant on Peking for the continuation of its profitable international network monopoly and has already moved to buy political insurance by furnishing Citic Pacific, the locally listed arm of Citic, with a 12 per cent shareholding.

However, this may not be enough. Citic Pacific may find it difficult to raise the cash for taking an even larger share of HKT's equity but there are other Chinese entities which could be brought into the company.

C&W is already working closely with China's ministry of posts and telecommunications and they have formed a joint company, Great Eastern, to

pursue telecommunications opportunities in China.

The ministry could well take a share in HKT through another corporate vehicle or C&W could pursue its links with the regional authorities in the bordering Guangdong province where there is another joint venture providing mobile services.

Should a direct link with a Chinese entity fail to materialise HKT has the option of closer co-operation with one of the three Hong Kong companies that have established rival domestic networks following partial deregulation of the industry last year.

All three companies are controlled by tycoons with close China ties.

At the moment HKT's strongest alliance is with New World. The two companies intend to co-operate in the provision of mobile services.

media marketing sales

All the latest news for media marketing and sales professionals with three pages of new positions on offer

See pages 21 - 22 section two

To book your advertisement call James Capper on 0171 293 2301

Every Tuesday in the **INDEPENDENT** section two

STOCK MARKETS									
FT-SE 100									
	Index	High	Low	Change	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	2 Years
FTSE 100	3751.60	-11.2	-2.1	3867.10	3639.50	3.96			
FTSE 250	4515.30	-53.3	-1.2	4568.60	4015.30	3.31			
FTSE 350	1902.20	-37.0	-1.9	1945.40	1816.60	3.81			
FT Small Cap	2224.05	-2.3	-0.1	2232.39	1954.05	2.91			
FT All Share	1887.22	-33.9	-1.8	1924.17	1781.95	3.74			
New York	5444.80	-123.2	-2.2	5689.74	3832.08	2.17			
Tokyo	21662.38	-572.7	-2.6	22282.05	18734.70	0.721			
Hong Kong	10734.24	-35.3	-0.3	11694.99	10073.39	3.311			
Frankfurt	2468.91	-68.3	-2.7	2638.26	2253.88	1.891			

INTEREST RATES									
UK Interest Rates									
	Index	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years
UK	6.00	6.38	8.24	8.28	8.34	8.32			
US	5.50	6.06	6.53	6.70	7.05	7.03			
Japan	0.53	1.06	Closed	Closed	-	-			
Germany	3.22	3.28	6.57	6.98	7.29	-			

CURRENCIES									
Pound vs.									
	Index	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5 Years
\$ (London)	1.5025	-0.75c	1.5943	0.6556	+0.33	0.699			
\$ (New York)	1.5080	-0.20c	1.5965	0.6551	+0.06	0.638			
DM (London)	2.2948	-1.36p	2.426	1.5273	-0.15p	1.65			
¥ (London)	157.349	-12.291	156.08	104.725	-11.000	99.77			
£ Index	83.7	-0.4	86.5	96.3	-0.2	98.1			

MAIN PRICE CHANGES									
Rises - Top 5	Price Up	By %	By %	Falls - Top 5	Price Down	By %	By %	By %	By %
Guardian Royal Ex	271	44.9	19.9	Courtaulds Textile	364	64	12.9		
Royal Insurance	437	66	17.8	Cable & Wireless	479	47	8.9		
Son Alliance Exp	414	57.5	18.1	British Telecom	338.5	30	8.1		

sport

A world away from the Crucible Paul Hefford, ranked 454, has made nothing from the game he loves. Yet he keeps playing

Snookered by his ambition

The first question that Paul Hefford, snooker professional, asked me was highly revealing: "Do I get paid for this?" he inquired hopefully.

Money is a magic word unless you are among the game's elite. Trouble is, it's harder to get than three snookers and all the balls to win, when you're one in a cast of hundreds and slipping rapidly down the rankings.

There are 628 professional players registered with the World Professional Snooker and Billiards Association. Many of these, household names like Fred Davis, Ray Reardon, John Virgo and Clive Everton, no longer play tournaments. But there is still a mass of hopefuls like Hefford who never appear on television, never play abroad and never win anything. Glamorous events like the Embassy World Championship will only ever be a dream for them. Yet they pester on.

"The only people who make a good living at the game are those in the top 30, and the rest just struggle," says Hefford, a professional for five years. "But even the person who is 50th probably only earns about £10,000 a year. That isn't a vast amount of money, is it?"

Since Hefford became a professional at 24, he has won precisely nothing from the game he loves. His situation is not unique. "From 90th to 250th, everyone is about the same. There is nothing much to choose between us. But the game is so much more com-



KEITH ELLIOTT
at large

petitive than 10 years ago, when there were 120 professionals and only about 40 were any good. Now you have a really high standard all the way down, and it's so hard to start from the bottom unless you're a John Higgins or Ronnie O'Sullivan."

For Hefford, who lives in Peterborough, the name of the game has not been snooker but survival. He still lives at home with his parents and hasn't had a holiday for years. It costs £100 to enter one of the nine touring tournaments and £250 for the world championships. Qualifying matches are generally played at Blackpool, Aldershot, Sheffield or Bolton. So Hefford jumps in his 1972 MGB ("I don't know how many miles it has broken") and prepares for a few days or a couple of weeks, depending how well he does, living in squalid B&Bs and getting homesick.

"I've still got the same suit. I can squeeze into it at the start, but after three weeks it will be

too big for me." When money is tight, even food becomes a luxury. The other players are friendly, but not overly so. The seven colours may be different, but they are all chasing the same rainbow.

He was nearly 15 when he took up snooker, but found that he had a natural eye for the game. Like many young players, he slaved off school to spend hours crouched over a cue. At 24, he had a steady job in his father's signwriting business, but threw it all up to play snooker full-time. "One of my friends was professional, so I had an idea of what the standard was. I thought I would do all right at it." Unfortunately, his decision coincided with the governing body's move to open up the game. Suddenly, there were hundreds of youngsters like him who saw their cue to fame and fortune.

Hefford, who has made four maximum breaks, is painfully honest about his success and his prospects. "It was a lot harder than I thought. I played all right but that wasn't good enough. It took a while to get used to the different tables, and there is tremendous mental pressure. I didn't handle it very well. "I have beaten a few players ranking in the 120s, but I've never played Peter Ebdon or Stephen Hendry or anyone like that. With me, it has been lack of confidence largely brought about by financial worries."

To earn enough money to compete, he has worked as a



Wishing on a star: Paul Hefford dreams of glory while watching the Embassy World Championship final yesterday

Photograph: Keith Dobney

roofer or a labourer. "But you can't play your best when you're knackered from working. With this game, you need to practise six or seven hours a day and it's very hard to do that when you're worn out."

Hefford's only sponsorship was £500 in his first year from a local snooker club. Although two Peterborough clubs give him a free table whenever he wants, he can't play club snook-

er because he's a professional. In any case, he finds the club tables too easy after playing with the big boys who, despite popular belief, use tables with smaller pockets.

Most of all, he needs that green stuff to stay in the black. "I didn't play last year because I just got disheartened. You can't just keep going to Blackpool or Sheffield and doing your money. But I might start playing

again because there are moves to introduce a league system. This is a three-tier system of leagues that aims to help players win through to the top rank on merit, rather than financial back-up. For a player like Hefford, it would mean the chance to win some money by playing his peers, with the incentive of promotion to a higher division. We are speaking in the Q Club in Peterborough. "Look at that,"

he gestures, pointing around him. "Once this place was packed with snooker tables, now it's half-full of pool and nine-ball. Snooker has to be aware of the challenges it faces. I don't think there is a lot wrong with the game, but it needs to look after the players at the bottom as well as those at the top, so young players will keep coming through."

Even though snooker has given Hefford nothing except

a lot of late nights and an empty pocket, he's still convinced he's in the frame. "If I could find a sponsor so I could play full-time, I still think I could make it." But to Hefford, Embassy will remain the name of a cigarette, rather than the apex of his career, unless he gets those extraordinary breaks — and those seem unlikely when you're 29 years old, broke, and ranked 454 in the world.

White and Gough show

Cricket

DEREK HODGSON
reports from Cardiff
Yorkshire 576-8 dec & 205-7 dec
Gloucestershire 482-7 dec & 216
(Nottinghamshire win by 43 runs)

After piling up 741 runs and declaring twice, Yorkshire glimpsed an extraordinary defeat on this glorious evening. A considerable Bank Holiday crowd, still beaming after Yorkshire's Sunday defeat cheered Gloucestershire's dash to 113 without loss, in pursuit of 261, with 24 overs remaining.

Then two bursts by the England contenders Darren Gough and Craig White, watched by the selector David Graveney, pierced Gloucestershire's soft underbelly and, with nine balls remaining, Yorkshire ended home. Gloucestershire lost their last seven wickets in 45 balls.

Even at the start of the last 10 overs, Gloucestershire, with eight

wickets standing, were favourites to make the remaining 116, but the top three in the order all made haste unnecessarily. Brave hitting by Matthew Maynard and Tony Cottee maintained the rate and with 58 needed off the last 54 balls the sheen stayed on the daffodil.

David Byas then replaced Richard Stemp with Gough at the Cathedral Road End and his first ball had Maynard lurching before Cottee was run out off the next ball and Robert Croft bowled with the third. Gary Butcher was caught in the deep in the next over before White, mixing short-pitching and yorkers cleverly, shot through the tail.

Such mayhem might have been expected in the morning. After Yorkshire had stumbled to 32 for 4 on Saturday evening, undermined by three lbw decisions, the natural assumption was that this pitch was at last starting to wear. The night-watchman, Alex Wharf, has

few pretensions to batting at this level and therefore few misgivings; he took seven off Watkin's first two balls and thereafter batted with almost aristocratic disdain to record a career-best 62.

Michael Bevan, after a few mistimings while he tested his balance on his strained left ankle, settled with him to take 153 off 37 overs, and although Yorkshire lost three wickets in four overs after lunch, Byas was able to nullify over another declaration. Bevan finished with 77.

Wharf, a fit 5ft 21-year-old from Buttershaw, Bradford, scored 40 in his debut against Warwickshire in 1994 but was injured most of last summer. He is proving difficult to dislodge even if his captain felt it unwise to bowl him during the carnage.

If Gloucestershire did fall to win an exhilarating victory, they could claim one winner. Leam Smith's immaculate Sophia Gardens pitch is perhaps the venue for the next timeless Test.

Irani's blitz turns the tide for shaky Essex

Ronnie Irani is developing quite a liking for New Road, but he is not particularly interested in hanging around to admire the beautiful Worcester scenery, writes Mark Burton. Yesterday he dallied for only 86 balls over hitting an unbeaten 110 to steer Essex to victory after they had run into unexpected difficulty in muzzling the 187 they needed to beat Worcestershire.

Two years ago, the England A all-rounder made 119 when Essex scored 405 to win, but he could not have expected the chance of a repeat, even if Essex did allow Worcestershire to make 415 in a second innings that looked to be collapsing when, resuming at 346 for 5, the home side lost David Leatherdale and Steve Lampitt in nine balls.

From there Worcestershire put on 159, with Phil Newport making 68 and Richard Illingworth 66 in a 100 partnership. Having let things slip, Essex then plunged to 32 for 5 before the Lancastrian Paul Grayson for a partnership that came up roses. Irani hit five sixes and 12 fours, while Grayson helped himself to 46 not out as the pair added an unbeaten 155 for the fifth wicket to see Essex home with 16 balls to spare.

Adam Hollis, who had his second century of the match to guide Essex to safety on a tedious final day against Somerset at Taunton. Starting 191 behind the visitors appeared to face a testing three sessions, but against a medium-pace attack lacking variation, Hollis followed up a first-innings 128 with 117 not out. Durham had their sights set on victory but were left clinging on for a draw against Northamptonshire at Chester-le-Street. Set an attractive target of 222 in 44 overs, closed on 168 for 7.

Having let things slip, Essex then plunged to 32 for 5 before the Lancastrian Paul Grayson for a partnership that came up roses. Irani hit five sixes and 12 fours, while Grayson helped himself to 46 not out as the pair added an unbeaten 155 for the fifth wicket to see Essex home with 16 balls to spare.

Adam Hollis, who had his second century of the match to guide Essex to safety on a tedious final day against Somerset at Taunton. Starting 191 behind the visitors appeared to face a testing three sessions, but against a medium-pace attack lacking variation, Hollis followed up a first-innings 128 with 117 not out. Durham had their sights set on victory but were left clinging on for a draw against Northamptonshire at Chester-le-Street. Set an attractive target of 222 in 44 overs, closed on 168 for 7.

From there Worcestershire put on 159, with Phil Newport making 68 and Richard Illingworth 66 in a 100 partnership. Having let things slip, Essex then plunged to 32 for 5 before the Lancastrian Paul Grayson for a partnership that came up roses. Irani hit five sixes and 12 fours, while Grayson helped himself to 46 not out as the pair added an unbeaten 155 for the fifth wicket to see Essex home with 16 balls to spare.

India thrive on run feast

HENRY BLOFIELD

reports from Ubridge
India 290 for 8
England NACA 176 for 8
(India win by 114 runs)

These days, most tours start with a handful of one-day games which act as a warm-up, but which play an important part in the overall preparations for the tougher matches ahead. These outings give all the members of the party the chance for early practice in the middle which, even against relatively modest opposition, is worth more than interminable sessions in the nets.

As Sachin Tendulkar had scored a century on Sunday he stood down, and it was the turn of Mohammad Azharuddin and Vikram Rathore to score hundreds against the National Cricket Association. Even such experienced players

as Tendulkar and Azharuddin will be happy to find everything in working order at this stage of the tour.

Azharuddin is always a joy to watch batting against any but the fastest of bowlers. He is rather less in command when the ball is pitched short and flies at his throat but yesterday he produced a succession of typically wristy strokes, aided by perfect timing, and he seemed incapable of an ugly movement.

Rathore is one of the several newcomers in this Indian side and he, too, played some fine strokes, reaching his 100 in exactly 100 balls. He thrived on the off-side, driving first off the front foot and then going on to the back foot and finding the gap between cover and extra. He has a nice square cut, too.

Navjot Sidhu and Sanjay Manjrekar did not make the best use of their chances, and with Azharuddin batting for 33 overs and Rathore for 34

there was not much time for anyone else. But India were always unlikely to be short of runs on this tour.

The NCA bowlers, coached by Chris Old, stuck to their task well, although they will be grateful they do not regularly come up against batting of this class. The NCA's batting went rather better after Javagal Srinath and Paras Mhambrey had each picked up an early wicket.

Simon Luckhurst, the son of Brian of Kent and England, and his captain Malcolm Roberts played some good strokes in a stand of 101, and none were better than the three fours Roberts hit in one over from Sourav Ganguly. Azharuddin gave all four of his seamers a gentle work-out before turning to his spinners: the left-armers Sunil Joshi, the leg-spinner Narendra Hirwani and the off-spinner Rahul Dravid. The spinners all looked in need of a long bowl.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Derbyshire v Leicestershire
Derbyshire (225) beat Leicestershire (191) by 34 runs.
Derbyshire: 100, D. G. Coles 106.
Leicestershire: 100, D. G. Coles 106.
Derbyshire: 100, D. G. Coles 106.
Leicestershire: 100, D. G. Coles 106.

Durham v Northamptonshire
Durham (250) beat Northamptonshire (116) by 134 runs.
Durham: 100, D. G. Coles 106.
Northamptonshire: 100, D. G. Coles 106.

Essex v Worcestershire
Essex (222) beat Worcestershire (168) by 54 runs.
Essex: 100, D. G. Coles 106.
Worcestershire: 100, D. G. Coles 106.

Gloucestershire v Yorkshire
Gloucestershire (113) were all out for 113, Yorkshire (261) won by 148 runs.
Gloucestershire: 100, D. G. Coles 106.
Yorkshire: 100, D. G. Coles 106.

Northamptonshire v Somerset
Northamptonshire (168) were all out for 168, Somerset (222) won by 54 runs.
Northamptonshire: 100, D. G. Coles 106.
Somerset: 100, D. G. Coles 106.

Derbyshire v Leicestershire
Derbyshire (225) beat Leicestershire (191) by 34 runs.
Derbyshire: 100, D. G. Coles 106.
Leicestershire: 100, D. G. Coles 106.

Durham v Northamptonshire
Durham (250) beat Northamptonshire (116) by 134 runs.
Durham: 100, D. G. Coles 106.
Northamptonshire: 100, D. G. Coles 106.

Essex v Worcestershire
Essex (222) beat Worcestershire (168) by 54 runs.
Essex: 100, D. G. Coles 106.
Worcestershire: 100, D. G. Coles 106.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Were both Nevilles to play for Manchester United on Saturday, they would provide another echo of the 1977 Wembley encounter with Liverpool, when the two Greenhoffs — inside-forward Jimmy and central defender Brian — wore the United colours, the last set of brothers to play together in an FA Cup final.



Brian Greenhoff

Jimmy's "thick" goal, when Lou Macan's shot deflected off his chest, won the day for United, but he admits to divided loyalties between Old Trafford and Stoke, where he played 274 League games. Brian, on the other hand, remains unequivocally red. "I've been a United fan since I was a boy in Barmley," Brian said.

Joining as a schoolboy, Brian, who won 13 England caps, remained with United until he was 27, when he was sold to his brother's first club, Leeds. The two were together again at Stoke, as manager and player, but it was not a successful association. Nowadays, neither is in football. Brian, 43, is a rep for a sports

equipment firm in Rochdale, where he lives with his wife and three sons. Jimmy, 50, based in Alsager, near Crewe, is attempting to recover from the collapse of his insurance business. "I don't keep in very close touch with the old players," Brian said, "although we have reunions and some of us will be at Wembley this weekend. In fact, I don't see a lot of Jimmy. We have never been especially close. There's seven years between us and we tend to have our own friends and our own lives."

Today

Derbyshire v Leicestershire
Derbyshire (225) beat Leicestershire (191) by 34 runs.
Derbyshire: 100, D. G. Coles 106.
Leicestershire: 100, D. G. Coles 106.

Durham v Northamptonshire
Durham (250) beat Northamptonshire (116) by 134 runs.
Durham: 100, D. G. Coles 106.
Northamptonshire: 100, D. G. Coles 106.

Essex v Worcestershire
Essex (222) beat Worcestershire (168) by 54 runs.
Essex: 100, D. G. Coles 106.
Worcestershire: 100, D. G. Coles 106.

Gloucestershire v Yorkshire
Gloucestershire (113) were all out for 113, Yorkshire (261) won by 148 runs.
Gloucestershire: 100, D. G. Coles 106.
Yorkshire: 100, D. G. Coles 106.

Northamptonshire v Somerset
Northamptonshire (168) were all out for 168, Somerset (222) won by 54 runs.
Northamptonshire: 100, D. G. Coles 106.
Somerset: 100, D. G. Coles 106.

St Mavis
Racing
CHESTER
0930 168
CHESHIRE
HARROGATE
DONCASTER
WINTON

'St Mawes to expose flaws in Vase rivals

Racing
GREG WOOD

Historians may point to their roads, elegant mosaics and central-heating systems, but most racing followers can suggest another example of the intelligence of the Romans. Two thousand years ago, the invaders clearly appreciated the potential of Chester's Roodey to be the site of Britain's most attractive flat racecourse, and once again we have reached that week in May when most of us give thanks for their foresight. Not everyone likes Chester, of course. There are those who believe that its tight, almost circular shape puts too many horses at a disadvantage, such as those who are drawn on the outside in double-figure fields.

That they are almost certainly the same people who truly enjoy watching racing on the bleak expanse of Newmarket's Rowley Mile is all that need be said about the anti-Roodeys point-of-view. Smart racegoers know that while Chester's May meeting may not be the most prestigious or profitable of the flat season, it is definitely a contender for the most enjoyable.

Nor will there be any shortage of useful animals on show this week, with today's Chester Vase a case in point. Its role as a serious Derby trial is open to question — since Shergar in 1981, no horse has completed the Chester-Epsom double — but several of its winners have gone on to other Group One successes, including Luso, who prevailed 12 months ago, Toulon, Old Vic, Law Society

and Belmez, who beat the subsequent Derby winner Quest For Fame in the Vase six years ago. That memory will be particularly strong this afternoon, when Air Quest, Quest For Fame's full brother, sets out to justify the run in the ante-post market which has seen him backed down to 1-4 for the Derby. That is desperately short for a colt who has just one previous outing to his credit, but

also a measure of the deep impression his five-length defeat of Set Addict in a Newbury maiden made on those who witnessed it.

An impression, though, is also what Air Quest's hooves were making in the turf that day, and there must be some doubt whether Roger Charlton's colt, who has a very rounded action, will be equally at home on today's surface which is expected

to ride on the fast side of good. For certain, it is not worth chancing at a short price, and ST MAWES (nap 3/10) is an appealing alternative. John Dunlop's colt showed considerable improvement to finish second to Storm Trooper in the Friddle Stakes, and although the latter did nothing to frank the form in the 2,000 Guineas on Saturday, he raced throughout the Classic on the unfavourable

middle ground. St Mawes can demonstrate this afternoon that both he and Storm Trooper will be significant forces among this year's Classic generation.

As ever, Peter Chapple-Hyam and Barry Hills, Robert Sangster's principal trainers, will be preparing a few runners for this meeting, and Sangster should enjoy a double in the first two races. Neither Carmine Lake or Legal Right will be at an attractive price, however, and punters looking for value would do better to wait for Kastanien (next best 3/40) and Pride Of Britain (4/40). Both are in good form and have the ideal Chester draw, close to the rail but not against it, where anything but a lightning-fast start can spell disaster.

Chapple-Hyam made a winning start to Chester week yesterday when Camperone, an Oaks entry, ran out the nine-length winner of Haydock's maiden. A trip to Epsom is now a distinct possibility.

Camperone's owner, the tax-exiled former bookmaker Michael Tabor, unleashed an-

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: School Boy
(Chester 3/40)
NE: St Mawes
(Chester 3/10)

other useful prospect at Kempton in Dr Massini, a Sadler's Wells colt who holds the Derby entry. The horses attracting ante-post money for Epsom, though, were Saturday's winner Dushyantor and King Alex, a stablemate of Air Quest in Roger Charlton's yard.

CHESTER

2.40 SHANTOU, from a stable whose runners have improved for an outing this season, did well, though green, when second at Newmarket, with Chabral sixth.

3.10 AIR QUEST looked very impressive in his debut and has the potential to progress. St Mawes, who is reported to have improved since a second to Storm Trooper last time, is the danger as Sangster's suspect steering will be tested by this turning track.

3.40 SCHOOL BOY has Kuntzian and Le Sport to fear as those higher in the handicap have weighed out of the reckoning.

4.10 TATKA made great strides on the all-weather this winter and may have been laid out for this.

Dettori defended over whipping

Godolphin's Simon Crisford yesterday defended Frankie Dettori, who received an eight-day ban for his use of the whip on Mark Of Esteem in winning Saturday's 2,000 Guineas.

"The sentence was very harsh," Crisford said. "There

were no real marks on Mark Of Esteem and he ate up afterwards. He came out of the race looking a million dollars and ran for the whip. If he hadn't hit him he wouldn't have won."

Dettori will miss York's Dante meeting and John Gosden, his main employer, said: "The whip instructions were drawn up with the best intentions but are flawed. When it comes to a big race a jockey has to go for it. Frankie is an artist. He flicks his whip, he doesn't

use it to ride on the fast side of good. For certain, it is not worth chancing at a short price, and ST MAWES (nap 3/10) is an appealing alternative. John Dunlop's colt showed considerable improvement to finish second to Storm Trooper in the Friddle Stakes, and although the latter did nothing to frank the form in the 2,000 Guineas on Saturday, he raced throughout the Classic on the unfavourable

middle ground. St Mawes can demonstrate this afternoon that both he and Storm Trooper will be significant forces among this year's Classic generation.

As ever, Peter Chapple-Hyam and Barry Hills, Robert Sangster's principal trainers, will be preparing a few runners for this meeting, and Sangster should enjoy a double in the first two races. Neither Carmine Lake or Legal Right will be at an attractive price, however, and punters looking for value would do better to wait for Kastanien (next best 3/40) and Pride Of Britain (4/40). Both are in good form and have the ideal Chester draw, close to the rail but not against it, where anything but a lightning-fast start can spell disaster.

Chapple-Hyam made a winning start to Chester week yesterday when Camperone, an Oaks entry, ran out the nine-length winner of Haydock's maiden. A trip to Epsom is now a distinct possibility.

Camperone's owner, the tax-exiled former bookmaker Michael Tabor, unleashed an-

CHESTER

2.10 Carmine Lake
2.40 Shantou
3.10 Air Quest

GOING: Good. STALLS: 1m 2ft — stand; 1m 2ft — stand; 1m 2ft — stand.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best.

Left-hand, left, clearer course. No suitable for long-distance horses.

Course at near centre of city on A50. Chester General Station 1m. ADMISSION: County Enclosure £20 (incl. out); Tattersall's £10; Dee Stand £4; Course £2. CAR PARK: £1.

LEADING TRAINERS' WYTH BROTHERS: M. Rouse — 18 winners from 84 runners (1st 20.1%, 2nd 20.1%, 3rd 20.1%, 4th 20.1%, 5th 20.1%, 6th 20.1%, 7th 20.1%, 8th 20.1%, 9th 20.1%, 10th 20.1%, 11th 20.1%, 12th 20.1%, 13th 20.1%, 14th 20.1%, 15th 20.1%, 16th 20.1%, 17th 20.1%, 18th 20.1%, 19th 20.1%, 20th 20.1%, 21st 20.1%, 22nd 20.1%, 23rd 20.1%, 24th 20.1%, 25th 20.1%, 26th 20.1%, 27th 20.1%, 28th 20.1%, 29th 20.1%, 30th 20.1%, 31st 20.1%, 32nd 20.1%, 33rd 20.1%, 34th 20.1%, 35th 20.1%, 36th 20.1%, 37th 20.1%, 38th 20.1%, 39th 20.1%, 40th 20.1%, 41st 20.1%, 42nd 20.1%, 43rd 20.1%, 44th 20.1%, 45th 20.1%, 46th 20.1%, 47th 20.1%, 48th 20.1%, 49th 20.1%, 50th 20.1%, 51st 20.1%, 52nd 20.1%, 53rd 20.1%, 54th 20.1%, 55th 20.1%, 56th 20.1%, 57th 20.1%, 58th 20.1%, 59th 20.1%, 60th 20.1%, 61st 20.1%, 62nd 20.1%, 63rd 20.1%, 64th 20.1%, 65th 20.1%, 66th 20.1%, 67th 20.1%, 68th 20.1%, 69th 20.1%, 70th 20.1%, 71st 20.1%, 72nd 20.1%, 73rd 20.1%, 74th 20.1%, 75th 20.1%, 76th 20.1%, 77th 20.1%, 78th 20.1%, 79th 20.1%, 80th 20.1%, 81st 20.1%, 82nd 20.1%, 83rd 20.1%, 84th 20.1%, 85th 20.1%, 86th 20.1%, 87th 20.1%, 88th 20.1%, 89th 20.1%, 90th 20.1%, 91st 20.1%, 92nd 20.1%, 93rd 20.1%, 94th 20.1%, 95th 20.1%, 96th 20.1%, 97th 20.1%, 98th 20.1%, 99th 20.1%, 100th 20.1%, 101st 20.1%, 102nd 20.1%, 103rd 20.1%, 104th 20.1%, 105th 20.1%, 106th 20.1%, 107th 20.1%, 108th 20.1%, 109th 20.1%, 110th 20.1%, 111th 20.1%, 112th 20.1%, 113th 20.1%, 114th 20.1%, 115th 20.1%, 116th 20.1%, 117th 20.1%, 118th 20.1%, 119th 20.1%, 120th 20.1%, 121st 20.1%, 122nd 20.1%, 123rd 20.1%, 124th 20.1%, 125th 20.1%, 126th 20.1%, 127th 20.1%, 128th 20.1%, 129th 20.1%, 130th 20.1%, 131st 20.1%, 132nd 20.1%, 133rd 20.1%, 134th 20.1%, 135th 20.1%, 136th 20.1%, 137th 20.1%, 138th 20.1%, 139th 20.1%, 140th 20.1%, 141st 20.1%, 142nd 20.1%, 143rd 20.1%, 144th 20.1%, 145th 20.1%, 146th 20.1%, 147th 20.1%, 148th 20.1%, 149th 20.1%, 150th 20.1%, 151st 20.1%, 152nd 20.1%, 153rd 20.1%, 154th 20.1%, 155th 20.1%, 156th 20.1%, 157th 20.1%, 158th 20.1%, 159th 20.1%, 160th 20.1%, 161st 20.1%, 162nd 20.1%, 163rd 20.1%, 164th 20.1%, 165th 20.1%, 166th 20.1%, 167th 20.1%, 168th 20.1%, 169th 20.1%, 170th 20.1%, 171st 20.1%, 172nd 20.1%, 173rd 20.1%, 174th 20.1%, 175th 20.1%, 176th 20.1%, 177th 20.1%, 178th 20.1%, 179th 20.1%, 180th 20.1%, 181st 20.1%, 182nd 20.1%, 183rd 20.1%, 184th 20.1%, 185th 20.1%, 186th 20.1%, 187th 20.1%, 188th 20.1%, 189th 20.1%, 190th 20.1%, 191st 20.1%, 192nd 20.1%, 193rd 20.1%, 194th 20.1%, 195th 20.1%, 196th 20.1%, 197th 20.1%, 198th 20.1%, 199th 20.1%, 200th 20.1%, 201st 20.1%, 202nd 20.1%, 203rd 20.1%, 204th 20.1%, 205th 20.1%, 206th 20.1%, 207th 20.1%, 208th 20.1%, 209th 20.1%, 210th 20.1%, 211st 20.1%, 212nd 20.1%, 213th 20.1%, 214th 20.1%, 215th 20.1%, 216th 20.1%, 217th 20.1%, 218th 20.1%, 219th 20.1%, 220th 20.1%, 221st 20.1%, 222nd 20.1%, 223rd 20.1%, 224th 20.1%, 225th 20.1%, 226th 20.1%, 227th 20.1%, 228th 20.1%, 229th 20.1%, 230th 20.1%, 231st 20.1%, 232nd 20.1%, 233rd 20.1%, 234th 20.1%, 235th 20.1%, 236th 20.1%, 237th 20.1%, 238th 20.1%, 239th 20.1%, 240th 20.1%, 241st 20.1%, 242nd 20.1%, 243rd 20.1%, 244th 20.1%, 245th 20.1%, 246th 20.1%, 247th 20.1%, 248th 20.1%, 249th 20.1%, 250th 20.1%, 251st 20.1%, 252nd 20.1%, 253rd 20.1%, 254th 20.1%, 255th 20.1%, 256th 20.1%, 257th 20.1%, 258th 20.1%, 259th 20.1%, 260th 20.1%, 261st 20.1%, 262nd 20.1%, 263rd 20.1%, 264th 20.1%, 265th 20.1%, 266th 20.1%, 267th 20.1%, 268th 20.1%, 269th 20.1%, 270th 20.1%, 271st 20.1%, 272nd 20.1%, 273rd 20.1%, 274th 20.1%, 275th 20.1%, 276th 20.1%, 277th 20.1%, 278th 20.1%, 279th 20.1%, 280th 20.1%, 281st 20.1%, 282nd 20.1%, 283rd 20.1%, 284th 20.1%, 285th 20.1%, 286th 20.1%, 287th 20.1%, 288th 20.1%, 289th 20.1%, 290th 20.1%, 291st 20.1%, 292nd 20.1%, 293rd 20.1%, 294th 20.1%, 295th 20.1%, 296th 20.1%, 297th 20.1%, 298th 20.1%, 299th 20.1%, 300th 20.1%, 301st 20.1%, 302nd 20.1%, 303rd 20.1%, 304th 20.1%, 305th 20.1%, 306th 20.1%, 307th 20.1%, 308th 20.1%, 309th 20.1%, 310th 20.1%, 311st 20.1%, 312nd 20.1%, 313th 20.1%, 314th 20.1%, 315th 20.1%, 316th 20.1%, 317th 20.1%, 318th 20.1%, 319th 20.1%, 320th 20.1%, 321st 20.1%, 322nd 20.1%, 323rd 20.1%, 324th 20.1%, 325th 20.1%, 326th 20.1%, 327th 20.1%, 328th 20.1%, 329th 20.1%, 330th 20.1%, 331st 20.1%, 332nd 20.1%, 333rd 20.1%, 334th 20.1%, 335th 20.1%, 336th 20.1%, 337th 20.1%, 338th 20.1%, 339th 20.1%, 340th 20.1%, 341st 20.1%, 342nd 20.1%, 343rd 20.1%, 344th 20.1%, 345th 20.1%, 346th 20.1%, 347th 20.1%, 348th 20.1%, 349th 20.1%, 350th 20.1%, 351st 20.1%, 352nd 20.1%, 353rd 20.1%, 354th 20.1%, 355th 20.1%, 356th 20.1%, 357th 20.1%, 358th 20.1%, 359th 20.1%, 360th 20.1%, 361st 20.1%, 362nd 20.1%, 363rd 20.1%, 364th 20.1%, 365th 20.1%, 366th 20.1%, 367th 20.1%, 368th 20.1%, 369th 20.1%, 370th 20.1%, 371st 20.1%, 372nd 20.1%, 373rd 20.1%, 374th 20.1%, 375th 20.1%, 376th 20.1%, 377th 20.1%, 378th 20.1%, 379th 20.1%, 380th 20.1%, 381st 20.1%, 382nd 20.1%, 383rd 20.1%, 384th 20.1%, 385th 20.1%, 386th 20.1%, 387th 20.1%, 388th 20.1%, 389th 20.1%, 390th 20.1%, 391st 20.1%, 392nd 20.1%, 393rd 20.1%, 394th 20.1%, 395th 20.1%, 396th 20.1%, 397th 20.1%, 398th 20.1%, 399th 20.1%, 400th 20.1%, 401st 20.1%, 402nd 20.1%, 403rd 20.1%, 404th 20.1%, 405th 20.1%, 406th 20.1%, 407th 20.1%, 408th 20.1%, 409th 20.1%, 410th 20.1%, 411st 20.1%, 412nd 20.1%, 413th 20.1%, 414th 20.1%, 415th 20.1%, 416th 20.1%, 417th 20.1%, 418th 20.1%, 419th 20.1%, 420th 20.1%, 421st 20.1%, 422nd 20.1%, 423rd 20.1%, 424th 20.1%, 425th 20.1%, 426th 20.1%, 427th 20.1%, 428th 20.1%, 429th 20.1%, 430th 20.1%, 431st 20.1%, 432nd 20.1%, 433rd 20.1%, 434th 20.1%, 435th 20.1%, 436th 20.1%, 437th 20.1%, 438th 20.1%, 439th 20.1%, 440th 20.1%, 441st 20.1%, 442nd 20.1%, 443rd 20.1%, 444th 20.1%, 445th 20.1%, 446th 20.1%, 447th 20.1%, 448th 20.1%, 449th 20.1%, 450th 20.1%, 451st 20.1%, 452nd 20.1%, 453rd 20.1%, 454th 20.1%, 455th 20.1%, 456th 20.1%, 457th 20.1%, 458th 20.1%, 459th 20.1%, 460th 20.1%, 461st 20.1%, 462nd 20.1%, 463rd 20.1%, 464th 20.1%, 465th 20.1%, 466th 20.1%, 467th 20.1%, 468th 20.1%, 469th 20.1%, 470th 20.1%, 471st 20.1%, 472nd 20.1%, 473rd 20.1%, 474th 20.1%, 475th 20.1%, 476th 20.1%, 477th 20.1%, 478th 20.1%, 479th 20.1%, 480th 20.1%, 481st 20.1%, 482nd 20.1%, 483rd 20.1%, 484th 20.1%, 485th 20.1%, 486th 20.1%, 487th 20.1%, 488th 20.1%, 489th 20.1%, 490th 20.1%, 491st 20.1%, 492nd 20.1%, 493rd 20.1%, 494th 20.1%, 495th 20.1%, 496th 20.1%, 497th 20.1%, 498th 20.1%, 499th 20.1%, 500th 20.1%, 501st 20.1%, 502nd 20.1%, 503rd 20.1%, 504th 20.1%, 505th 20.1%, 506th 20.1%, 507th 20.1%, 508th 20.1%, 509th 20.1%, 510th 20.1%, 511st 20.1%, 512nd 20.1%, 513th 20.1%, 514th 20.1%, 515th 20.1%, 516th 20.1%, 517th 20.1%, 518th 20.1%, 519th 20.1%, 520th 20.1%, 521st 20.1%, 522nd 20.1%, 523rd 20.1%, 524th 20.1%, 525th 20.1%, 526th 20.1%, 527th 20.1%, 528th 20.1%, 529th 20.1%, 530th 20.1%, 531st 20.1%, 532nd 20.1%, 533rd 20.1%, 534th 20.1%, 535th 20.1%, 536th 20.1%, 537th 20.1%, 538th 20.1%, 539th 20.1%, 540th 20.1%, 541st 20.1%, 542nd 20.1%, 543rd 20.1%, 544th 20.1%, 545th 20.1%, 546th 20.1%, 547th 20.1%, 548th 20.1%, 549th 20.1%, 550th 20.1%, 551st 20.1%, 552nd 20.1%, 553rd 20.1%, 554th 20.1%, 555th 20.1%, 556th 20.1%, 557th 20.1%, 558th 20.1%, 559th 20.1%, 560th 20.1%, 561st 20.1%, 562nd 20.1%, 563rd 20.1%, 564th 20.1%, 565th 20.1%, 566th 20.1%, 567th 20.1%, 568th 20.1%, 569th 20.1%, 570th 20.1%, 571st 20.1%, 572nd 20.1%, 573rd 20.1%, 574th 20.1%, 575th 20.1%, 576th 20.1%, 577th 20.1%, 578th 20.1%, 579th 20.1%, 580th 20.1%, 581st 20.1%, 582nd 20.1%, 583rd 20.1%, 584th 20.1%, 585th 20.1%, 586th 20.1%, 587th 20.1%, 588th 20.1%, 589th 20.1%, 590th 20.1%, 591st 20.1%, 592nd 20.1%, 593rd 20.1%, 594th 20.1%, 595th 20.1%, 596th 20.1%, 597th 20.1%, 598th 20.1%, 599th 20.1%, 600th 20.1%, 601st 20.1%, 602nd 20.1%, 603rd 20.1%, 604th 20.1%, 605th 20.1%, 606th 20.1%, 607th 20.1%, 608th 20.1%, 609th 20.1%, 610th 20.1%, 611st 20.1%, 612nd 20.1%, 613th 20.1%, 614th 20.1%, 615th 20.1%, 616th 20.1%, 617th 20.1%, 618th 20.1%, 619th 20.1%, 620th 20.1%, 621st 20.1%, 622nd 20.1%, 623rd 20.1%, 624th 20.1%, 625th 20.1%, 626th 20.1%, 627th 20.1%, 628th 20.1%, 629th 20.1%, 630th 20.1%, 631st 20.1%, 632nd 20.1%, 633rd 20.1%, 634th 20.1%, 635th 20.1%, 636th 20.1%, 637th 20.1%, 638th 20.1%, 639th 20.1%, 640th 20.1%, 641st 20.1%, 642nd 20.1%, 643rd 20.1%, 644th 20.1%, 645th 20.1%, 646th 20.1%, 647th 20.1%, 648th 20.1%, 649th 20.1%, 650th 20.1%, 651st 20.1%, 652nd 20.1%, 653rd 20.1%, 654th 20.1%, 655th 20.1%, 656th 20.1%, 657th 20.1%, 658th 20.1%, 659th 20.1%, 660th 20.1%, 661st 20.1%, 662nd 20.1%, 663rd 20.1%, 664th 20.1%, 665th 20.1%, 666th 20.1%, 667th 20.1%, 668th 20.1%, 669th 20.1%, 670th 20.1%, 671st 20.1%, 672nd 20.1%, 673rd 20.1%, 674th 20.1%, 675th 20.1%, 676th 20.1%, 677th 20.1%, 678th 20.1%, 679th 20.1%, 680th 20.1%, 681st 20.1%, 682nd 20.1%, 683rd 20.1%, 684th 20.1%, 685th 20.1%, 686th 20.1%, 687th 20.1%, 688th 20.1%, 689th 20.1%, 690th 20.1%, 691st 20.1%, 692nd 20.1%, 693rd 20.1%, 694th 20.1%, 695th 20.1%, 696th 20.1%, 697th 20.1%, 698th 20.1%, 699th 20.1%, 700th 20.1%, 701st 20.1%, 702nd 20.1%, 703rd 20.1%, 704th 20.1%, 705th 20.1%, 706th 20.1%, 707th 20.1%, 708th 20.1%, 709th 20.1%, 710th 20.1%, 711st 20.1%, 712nd 20.1%, 713th 20.1%, 714th 20.1%, 715th 20.1%, 716th 20.1%, 717th 20.1%, 718th 20.1%, 719th 20.1%, 720th 20.1%, 721st 20.1%, 722nd 20.1%, 723rd 20.1%, 724th 20.1%, 725th 20.1%, 726th 20.1%, 727th 20.1%, 728th 20.1%, 729th 20.1%, 730th 20.1%, 731st 20.1%, 732nd 20.1%, 733rd 20.1%, 734th 20.1%, 735th 20.1%, 736th 20.1%, 737th 20.1%, 738th 20.1%, 739th 20.1%, 740th 20.1%, 741st 20.1%, 742nd 20.1%, 743rd 20.1%, 744th 20.1%, 745th 20.1%, 746th 20.1%, 747th 20.1%, 748th 20.1%, 749th 20.1%, 750th 20.1%, 751st 20.1%, 752nd 20.1%, 753rd 20.1%, 754th 20.1%, 755th 20.1%, 756th 20.1%, 757th 20.1%, 758th 20.1%, 759th 20.1%, 760th 20.1%, 761st 20.1%, 762nd 20.1%, 763rd 20.1%, 764th 20.1%, 765th 20.1%, 766th 20.1%, 767th 20.1%, 768th 20.1%, 769th 20.1%, 770th 20.1%, 771st 20.1%, 772nd 20.1%, 773rd 20.1%, 774th 20.1%, 775th 20.1%, 776th 20.1%, 777th 20.1%, 778th 20.1%, 779th 20.1%, 780th 20.1%, 781st 20.1%, 782nd 20.1%, 783rd 20.1%, 784th 20.1%, 785th 20.1%, 786th 20.1%, 787th 20.1%, 788th 20.1%, 789th 20.1%, 790th 20.1%, 791st 20.1%, 792nd 20.1%, 793rd 20.1%, 794th 20.1%, 795th 20.1%, 796th 20.1%, 797th 20.1%, 798th 20.1%, 799th 20.1%, 800th 20.1%, 801st 20.1%, 802nd 20.1%, 803rd 20.1%, 804th 20.1%, 805th 20.1%, 806th 20.1%, 807th 20.1%, 808th 20.1%, 809th 20.1%, 810th 20.1%, 811st 20.1%, 812nd 20.1%, 813th 20.1%, 814th 20.1%, 815th 20.1%, 816th 20.1%, 817th 20.1%, 818th 20.1%, 819th 20.1%, 820th 20.1%, 821st 20.1%, 822nd 20.1%, 823rd 20.1%, 824th 20.1%, 825th 20.1%, 826th 20.1%, 827th 20.1%, 828th 20.1%, 829th 20.1%, 830th 20.1%, 831st 20.1%, 832nd 20.1%, 833rd 20.1%, 834th 20.1%, 835th 20.1%, 836th 20.1%, 837th 20.1%, 838th 20.1%, 839th 20.1%, 840th 20.1%, 841st 20.1%, 842nd 20.1%, 843rd 20.1%, 844th 20.1%, 845th 20.1%, 846th 20.1%, 847th 20.1%, 848th 20.1%, 849th 20.1%, 850th 20.1%, 851st 20.1%, 852nd 20.1%, 853rd 20.1%, 854th 20.1%, 855th 20.1%, 856th 20.1%, 857th 20.1%, 858th 20.1%, 859th 20.1%, 860th 20.1%, 861st 20.1%, 862nd 20.1%, 863rd 20.1%, 864th 20.1%, 865th 20.1%, 866th 20.1%, 867th 20.1%, 868th 20.1%, 869th 20.1%, 870th 20.1%, 871st 20.1%, 872nd 20.1%, 873rd 20.1%, 874th 20.1%, 875th 20.1%, 876th 20.1%, 877th 20.1%, 878th 20.1%, 879th 20.1%, 880

sport

END OF AN ERA: The RFU's moratorium on professionalism expires today. **Steve Bale**, Rugby Union Correspondent, considers the implications of the new order while **Dai Llewellyn** (below) looks at the impact of the change on leading clubs

So farewell, then, the amateur game

At the Cafe Royal, London today, English club rugby union will symbolically pass into the professional age when the end of the Rugby Football Union's moratorium begins the scramble for the players and the millions of pounds supposedly needed to make a success of the new dispensation.

That Richmond have chosen a venue more readily recognised in sport for its boxing connection for their announcement – per two or three from Ben Clarke, Scott Quinnell, Mike Catt, Abdel Benazzi, Laurent Cabannes and a host of others – is not the least of the ironies of the impossibly turbulent situation. That it is Richmond, most recently of the Third Division, who are making it is another.

So all of a sudden money, with which rugby union has had an equivocal relationship ever since it started coining the stuff in

Clubs who do not have enough money are about to find out the hard way

sponsorships while denying the players these fruits of their labours, talks. Those clubs who do not have enough – quite possibly including some of the giants of the game – are about to find that out the hard way. For an inately conservative sport, this is unalloyed Thatcherism.

Market forces also explain why England's First Division clubs have been pushing so hard in their infinitely tedious dispute with the RFU. Richmond have now made it to the Second Division, which is also where well-heeled Saracens and Newcastle will reside next season, always presuming Saracens really are relegated.

Many First Division clubs – even those of the distinction of Bath and Leicester, who contested but gained only a modest return from the £1.2m Pilkington Cup final – do not have the access to corporate finance of their hitherto lesser brethren and therefore, probably commencing with Clarke today, are ripe for cherry-picking. Consequently, they are in effect asking the RFU, which will be reluctant to be enmeshed as long as Cliff Brittle heads its negotiators, to make available the resources to prevent this happening.



Final fling: Bath and Leicester contested the Pilkington Cup final last Saturday, but the clubs received very little money for their efforts

Photograph: Peter Jay

Whatever transpires, it is an uncomfortable and unchangeable fact that clubs' status and success will no longer rest solely on the many fine but abstract qualities that have, to take the most prominent example, carried Bath to 10 cup wins and five league titles in little more than a decade.

This is not to say loyalty, *esprit de corps*, reserves of determination, courage, commitment and all the rest of the clichés will count for nothing. On the contrary, many of us who have admirably watched Bath during these years of plenty will believe the theory of their imminent demise only when it takes place – which may well be never. But it is unavoidable that there

are new "values" that will – although how pure or soulful it has lately been is a matter of debate – but it has gained something else, an unlikely and certainly unusual degree of honesty. Anyway, when a professional commitment is demanded of its participants it is only fair that they earn a professional reward.

This was recognised long ago, however surreptitiously, in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, which may explain how contrastingly easy the transition has been there. Believe it or not, it was recognised, too, by the RFU this very season when they granted contracts to members of the England squad.

But, prudent though the club moratorium may have been, the

England contracts explicitly broke the "seamless" principle – the so-called open game applying to all and to be interpreted by each and every club as they deem appropriate – on which the union has hung its approach to professionalism.

So for Brittle to complain, as he has, that the major clubs' demand for the control of and finance from their own competitions would entail an unravelling of this seamlessness is both contradictory and unsustainable. In the great meritocracy of the Courage Clubs' Championship, it will remain open to the lowest in the land by merit to join the greatest.

The difference is that merit – or put another way, playing

results – can henceforth be acquired through cash-in-hand rather than any intrinsic quality, and it is undeniable that many in English rugby who will forever be utterly untouched by professionalism cannot stand the thought that anyone might be paid for anything. If nothing else, this year's two RFU special general meetings in Birmingham showed the depth of this feeling.

The problem for the RFU is that, seamless or otherwise, professionalism divides the game into two, professional and amateur, or three if you add a semi-professional stratum, though the point is that players and clubs are perfectly capable of moving between the three whether or not they are officially recognised.

Doubtless the *de facto* divide creates many problems for administrators, but the most urgent one has been, and still is, how professionalism is to be financed and managed, and this is where the RFU under Brittle has gone so badly wrong – in being overconcerned with its duty of care for the 2,000 clubs and organisations who make up the union when it was only the top few dozen for whom anything in practice had changed.

The game of rugby football is not about a few individuals or a few individual clubs at the top end of the game," Brittle said in a television interview. Quite right too, but alas for Cliff, the professional game of rugby football is about precisely that.

Nor, moreover, is there the slightest threat in all this to those who have enjoyed their coarse rugby down the years. The professionalism that Richmond herald today represents the future, however imperfect. The idea that the junior clubs are natural bedfellows with Richmond is the past.

So let us prepare ourselves for a frenzy of activity, of more clubs selling themselves (selling out?) to business backers and a veritable paroxysm of transfer activity – though there has been nothing to stop any of these during the eight months of the moratorium. Richmond, indeed, have already signed Cardiff's Adrian Davies and Andy Moore.

Only last Thursday Wasps were unveiling a Cardiff player of more venerable vintage, Mike Griffiths. But this announcement was a timely demonstration that the nascent professionalism of

They are moving for the money, pure and simple. And who can blame them?

players – Griffiths will be on a handsome £210,000 over three years – is not necessarily matched by the professionalism of the administration.

How curious that in this respect rugby union can still have so much to learn from its former self, from the old volunteers who would devote themselves unstintingly in a designedly unpaid cause. Wasps, on the other hand, hired a company ("Specialists in Press and Public Relations") to handle the news of Griffiths.

So profound was Complete Golf & Leisure's knowledge of the game that it managed to spell Griffiths' name wrong in each of four mentions and was three years too optimistic in his age. Damian Hopley, who has been with the club rather longer, became Damian.

If this is professionalism give me amateurism, because John Gasson, the stalwart but honorary specialist who expertly handled Wasps' press and public relations for more years than he would care to remember, would never have got it wrong.

"The time has come for a new era in rugby football," Richmond's invitation to the Cafe Royal portentously reads. On and off the field, I only hope.

THE CLUB SCENE: WHO'S HOT AND WHO'S NOT IN THE CHANGING WORLD OF RUGBY UNION

BATH



Aiming to raise £10m over next five years after members voted to turn club into a public limited company with corporate investors. Plans for £10m purpose-built stadium. Wage bill expected to be around £1.5m for first two years. Expect to have around 12 full-time professionals at start of next season. Struggling to keep top names. **Comings and goings:** Expect to lose Clarke to Richmond. Moseley want Redman.

BRISTOL



Looking to raise £900,000-£1m from share issue to members to help wipe out mortgage of £300,000 on Memorial Ground. Next season will earn £100,000 per season in rent from Bristol Rovers FC (four-year deal with five-year extension option). Bristol and West Building Society backing has allowed club to introduce an incentive scheme for players from next season. Wage bill expected to be around £800,000. **Comings and goings:** Awaiting decision to stay from England scrum-half Myran Bracken.

GLOUCESTER



SGM expected soon for approval to become limited company. Ambitious plans for £15m purpose-built stadium, incorporating a casino. The new complex would provide vital revenue. Looking for new main sponsor as Worthington deal ends. Expect wage bill of around £650,000, but only half a dozen players expected to be full-time. Others will be advised to stay part-time. **Comings and goings:** Lining up the former Bath and England No 8 Dave Egerton as coach. England lock Richard West probably moving to Richmond.

HARLEQUINS



Following £1.5m deal with Japanese electronics firm NEC they will now be known as NEC Harlequins of London. Expected to announce major corporate backer, who will be given shares in club but not a controlling interest for an investment of around £2.5m. Wage bill rumoured to hit the £1.9m mark; Carling is said to have been offered between £300,000 and £500,000 to keep him at club until 1999. **Comings and goings:** Have signed the Wales lock Gareth Llewellyn.

LEICESTER



Looking for wealthy minority shareholders to take a stake in the club, but as yet nothing concrete has been decided. Chief executive Peter Wheeler has had talks with Irish millionaire Tony O'Reilly. Likely to need at least £2.5m share capital. With the largest membership – 14,000 – a decision to increase fees from £48 to £50 will also raise healthy revenue. **Comings and goings:** England flanker Neil Back still considering his options. Looking to employ 12-15 full-time pros.

NEWCASTLE



First club to go public, with some £3m of Sir John Hall's vast fortune over three years. With the Newcastle United sporting stable to draw on the club is already earning income from merchandising. **Comings and goings:** Rob Andrew has spent around £750,000 on quality players and is expected to announce another big name signing shortly, possibly France's precociously talented threequarter Thomas Castaignède. The club will have to service a total wage bill of around £1m as things stand. Whole squad will be full-time.

NORTHAMPTON



Millionaire Keith Barwell made an initial injection of £1m but promised more cash would be made available. A further £400,000 is held on trust on behalf of the membership. Unlikely to maintain more than half a dozen full-time players. Wage bill around £300,000 to £400,000. **Comings and goings:** Expected to attract some big name signings, possibly Olivier Roumat and Abdelatif Benazzi.

ORRELL



The proposed ground sharing scheme with Wigan has been ditched and instead the club intends to develop its existing site at Edge Hall Road. Outline plans include a new all-seater stand and new floodlights. There is no talk of going public, but the club owns everything and would have launching a share issue to raise capital, but collateral to raise loans when needed. **Comings and goings:** Recently signed Franco Botica, from the rugby league club Castleford, for a rumoured £50,000. The deal for the former All Black would have to be financed by the broadcasting share-out. No thoughts of maintaining a full-time squad.

RICHMOND



Ashley Levett's £2.5m investment is being underwritten by the signing of numerous top drawer players. Looking into plans for new stadium which would provide additional revenue. If they fail in that, Richmond may ground share with a football club. Likely to have 12-15 full-time professionals initially. **Comings and goings:** An announcement that Bath's Ben Clarke has joined them is expected today, along with Scott Quinnell from Wigan. Mike Catt may follow along with Benazzi of France. Adrian Davies and Andy Moore are there already.

SARACENS



Nigel Wray's £2.5m has helped attract Michael Lynagh, Philippe Sella, Ireland's Eddie Haver and Wales' Tony Cooney. They beelined up an already talented squad but still have to get back into the top flight. Ground sharing with Wigan side Enfield until a new £5m complex is completed. Likely to have a core of around 10 full-timers and a wage bill of more than £1m. **Comings and goings:** The talented Diprose, Hill and Chesney certain to stay. More signings are expected.

WASPS



Membership expected to approve plans to raise at least £2.5m on the Alternative Investment Market at an AGM on 28 May. Work begins this summer on the redevelopment of the ground. Expect to have around a dozen full-time players at the start and a wage bill in excess of £1m. **Comings and goings:** Suffered loss of key players when Andrew took Ryan, Bates et al to Newcastle, but the present crop of youngsters, including Laurence Dallaglio, pulled things around. Won race for signature of Alex King, and more signings are expected.

WEST HARTLEPOOL



Ostensibly the poor relations of the North-east, relegated pointlessly from Division One in a season which saw eight players, including captain Simpson head north to Newcastle and Scotland captain Wainwright return to his motherland. A new 10,000-seater stadium is to be built, courtesy of the local council. **Comings and goings:** The chairman, Philip Yull, has supplied cash to bring Ring, Moseley and Silva to the club.

I was beginning to feel pleased with having got ahead of Michael at the start when 'twoosh!', a red and white car suddenly came alongside. 'That'll be David,' I thought

The San Marino Grand Prix was significant because it was the first time this season that the Rothmans Williams-Renault team had not been dominant during qualifying. It was clear from the word go that Ferrari was going to provide tough competition and that proved to be the case. It was therefore all the more gratifying to win on Sunday; it had been a very tough test for the entire team and we came through with flying colours.

With Michael Schumacher starting from pole position and likely to give us a difficult time, we had to think long and hard about tactics. It was essential to work effectively as a team while doing our calculations and making plans, and for that reason, I'm really pleased that we came out on top. There was a tremendous sense of satisfaction. We had been working towards this over the winter and here was the chance to prove

that the Williams-Renault team has got everything it needs: the best personnel and the right mentality to tackle a race such as this.

We chose the perfect tactic by running a long stint – almost up to half distance – before making the first of two pit stops. The tactic was devised by the team after detailed examination of all our options. I must admit I had my doubts at first. Fifteen minutes before the race was about to start, I was still in the debrief room going through it with Adrian Newey, the chief designer, to make sure the plan was plausible.

The new strategy obviously posed many pros and cons. On balance it made sense, although I have to say it would have been very easy to bottle out and adopt the familiar tactic of stopping at one-third and then two-thirds distance. But the more I thought about it, the more I became clear that this was actually a very

good plan. I was helped by the fact that the car had been great during the morning warm-up. Although we didn't get it right during qualifying, we had established a good set-up on the car for the race. I was very confident going to the grid.

I was beginning to feel pleased with having got ahead of Michael at the start, when "twoosh!", a red and white car suddenly came alongside. "That'll be David," I thought. Sure enough, David Coulthard, repeating his great start from the previous Sunday in Germany, went steaming into the lead. I wondered how long he could maintain the lead with so much competition from behind.

A more immediate problem concerned my brakes; I had to be careful in the early laps because of the extra weight of the car due to the full load of fuel for that long stint, and yet I was loath to drop back too early. At the end of the first lap, I



DAMON HILL

did not make a very good exit from the last corner. Schumacher, who was running with less fuel on board, was able to challenge going into the next corner. I gave him a bit of clearance to go through, in the knowledge that if I could stick with the Ferrari, then I had to be in with a shout. It was very difficult to judge the best pace. I couldn't afford to drop back

too much and yet I couldn't drive too hard because that would either blister the tyres or wear out my brakes.

After a few laps I found a good rhythm and began to push harder and harder. I was in communication with the team throughout the entire race; plenty of discussion over the radio as to what was going on and who was where. We knew the critical period would be between Schumacher disappearing into the pits at one-third distance and the subsequent 10-lap gap to my first stop.

I had to give it everything and try to take out an advantage while I had a lighter fuel load. I set the fastest lap of the race, but I had one or two moments when the car nearly got away from me. Although I was very close to the limit, I don't believe I was ever forced to go to the maximum. Imola is a very bumpy track; it is physically hard on the driver. You have to brace yourself very firmly, but even

so, you get knocked about quite a bit. There are a lot of very fast entries to extremely tricky sections, which means it is easy to make a mistake.

On top of that, I had taken off quite a bit of wing angle. That meant the car felt very light while cornering, but it was faster in a straight line. I didn't want to struggle while trying to pass backmarkers as I had to in Germany the previous week, although on one occasion traffic cost me a bit of time, which I could ill afford because I knew it was going to be very, very close when I rejoined after my pit stop.

The pit stop was perfect and I got out just ahead of the Ferrari, but I had the benefit of new tyres. Our fuel loads were now similar and I knew from my experience in the early laps that I should be able to stay in control. In fact, Schumacher was not that much slower, an indication

that we are likely to face stiff competition from Ferrari for the rest of the season. Gradually the gap opened and, later on, luck was on our side when I had a clear track and Michael was held up by the battle between Mika Hakkinen and Pedro Diniz.

We were brilliant as a team and we did the right thing all the way along the line and my fourth win of the season has put me back on the right course for the championship. I have to admit, however, that the side will not be my proudest moment when we go to Monte Carlo in two weeks' time.

Monaco stands alone as the greatest test a racing driver can face in his career and the Williams-Renault team has not won there since 1983 with Keke Rosberg. I've never won there, despite the fact my father won it five times. I have my sights set on victory in this race.

